



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
18th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

September 26, 2021

10:30 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Together We Serve

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Ephesians 4*

Come, let us worship our God, for there is one Lord,
one faith, one baptism, one God and Parent of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

We come with humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another in love.

GATHERING PRAYER

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. —*Deuteronomy 6:4–9*

HYMN: #730 “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

—Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

#448 “Peace of God Be with You”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Ephesians 4:11-16

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

John 15:12-17

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON

“Follow in Community”

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.

HYMN: #306 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

CHARGE

Equipped now for the work of ministry, go in peace and be bread for the life of the world.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God’s love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there’s not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn’t be one too.

3 They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops,
or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.