



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

13th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

August 27, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

Our joy comes from the heart of God,

who transforms us into open-handed givers of hope.

Our grace comes from God's compassion,

who breaks the bonds which tie us to sin and death.

Blessed be the Lord our God!

Who reveals to us the One who brings us new life!

GATHERING PRAYER

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "Why Should I Feel Discouraged?"** (see insert)

SPARROW

CALL TO CONFESSION

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like Peter. But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of our need for your saving presence in our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

It's not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift.

Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word may be known. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

^{2:1}Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Psalm 124

¹If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let Israel now say --

²**if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,**

when our enemies attacked us,

³**then they would have swallowed us up alive,**

when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴**then the flood would have swept us away,**

the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵**then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

⁶Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;**

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸**Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Where Would I Be?"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SPECIAL MUSIC:

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER*(ecumenical)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Where would we be without the Lord on our side? Let us offer our gifts now to God in gratitude.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Praise to God the Father" #605

DA N'ASE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We will not proclaim our faith with our words only, but with our lives and these gifts we offer to you, O God, we pray that others might be transformed by your grace, your hope, and your peace. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "I've Got Peace Like a River" (see insert)**

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

CHARGE

We are called to do God's work in our communities,

and so, we go out on God's side to love others.

We are called to serve every person, in every place,

and so, we go to work at the side of Jesus in the world.

We are called to proclaim peace, and live it in our lives,

and so, we go to be on the Spirit's side.

BENEDICTION

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug 27

10:30 am	Outdoor Worship for all ages
11:30am	Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)
1:00pm	PorchFest

Monday, Aug 28

10:00 am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
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Tuesday, Aug 29

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
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Wednesday, Aug 30

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
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Thursday, Aug 31

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, Sept 2

10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
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Sunday, Sept 3

10:30 am	Outdoor Worship for all ages
11:30am	Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

