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First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

17th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

September 19, 2021

10:30 am

PRELUDE *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian in my Heart*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says to us, "Come and see!"

What is there to see?

Jesus has so much to show us about God's love.

Where are we going?

Jesus is leading to God.

(turn to one another) **I'm going! You come too!**

GATHERING PRAYER

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. Establish us in your truth and guide us by your Holy Spirit, that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church and in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in God, we dare to approach God with confidence. Together, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, we are followers of Jesus, yet we stumble and fall along the way. The good news is that Jesus does not condemn us, but lifts us up to continue the journey. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE #448 "Peace of God Be with You"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Galatians 1:11-24

John 1:43-50

SERMON

“Follow Me!”

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**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: Our very selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN:

#2129

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

CHARGE

As God’s chosen ones—holy, beloved, and claimed in the waters of baptism—clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. Forgive one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. And above all these things, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. (Refrain)

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me. (Refrain)

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

3. Tho' none go with me, I still follow;
Tho' none go with me, I still follow;
Tho' none go with me, I still follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

Scripture Lessons

Galatians 1:11-24

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹² for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹ but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²² and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³ they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

John 1:43-50

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."