



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Mr. Michael Donovan

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

July 31, 2022

10:00 am

PRELUDE *Spirit, Open My Heart*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are children of God, learning to walk.
Day by day, we are learning to be the church.
God is a loving parent, teaching us to walk.
God loves us, leads us, and feeds us.

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy One, you see us for just who we are, and yet you love us with a parent's love. In your enduring love for us, we see both our guilt and our acquittal. Gracious God, continue to guide us and teach us to walk in your ways. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN: *Come! Live in the Light!* #749**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us return to our God in confession, considering God's steadfast love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nurturing God, you continue to lead us in upright ways on account of your love for us. Yet we do not always follow your call; we turn away from you and go our own way. Forgive us, and return us to our rightful home in you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear these words from our God:

I cannot give up on you— my compassion grows warm and tender.
When my children come trembling, I will bring them home.
Believe the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, we trust that you have our best interests at heart.
As we hear the reading of your Word,
remind us that we have been raised with Christ,
and inspire us to seek the things that are above,
through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalms 49:1-12

¹Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world, ²both low and high, rich and poor alike: ³My mouth will speak words of wisdom; the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.

⁴ I will turn my ear to a proverb; with the harp I will expound my riddle: ⁵ Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked deceivers surround me—
⁶ those who trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches? ⁷ No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them—⁸ the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—
⁹ so that they should live on forever and not see decay. ¹⁰ For all can see that the wise die, that the foolish and the senseless also perish, leaving their wealth to others. ¹¹ Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves. ¹² People, despite their wealth, do not endure; they are like the beasts that perish.

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

SERMON:

Mr. Michael Donovan

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 *As the Wind Song*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, we give you thanks for the richness of our lives. Bless these tithes and offerings, that they might be used as expressions of your steadfast love for those in need near and far. Amen.

***HYMN:** *Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love) #693*

CHARGE

Since you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are of God, and go forth to live lives worthy of your calling.

BENEDICTION

May the God who gives us every good gift
bless you and keep you in the mind of Christ,
by the power of the Spirit who sustains us all. Amen.

We would like to thank Mr. Michael Donovan for sharing his gifts with us today.

Hymns

“Come! Live in the Light!” #749

1 Come, live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another to walk humbly with God.

2 Come, open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. **(Refrain)**

3 Sing, sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. **(Refrain)**

“Though I May Speak” (The Gift of Love) #693

1 "Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.