

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

CCLI License # 2839486

March 5, 2023

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

From where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Who is our keeper?

**The Lord is our keeper,
by day and by night.**

How long will God protect us?

**God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #65**

CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives, for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow, as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for an answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is Kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us;

Watcher of our days, lead us;

Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN:

PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "As the Wind Song" - Hearts4Worship

WAIRUA TAPU

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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

SERMON: "Generous Giving: Giving Our Money"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

PASTORAL PRAYER

STORYTELLING OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: Lord of All Good (vs. 1) #711

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You trust us enough to place your blessings in us, so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so others might be kept in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness, might receive hope in their despair. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of great adventures be with you!

And also with you!

It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.

You went into the shadows we lift our thanksgivings to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

All creation blesses your glorious name.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to answer our questions.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy One, you are the God of blessings...we would talk about that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, faithful to the end;

Christ was raised, so all creation might be saved;

Christ will come, to bring us to that home he will show us.

What then are we to say, ... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

***HYMN: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #526**

LINSTEAD

CHARGE

Now go with the Spirit, from the comfort of this place,
so we may go to bring hope to the world.

Now carry the Light of Christ with you,
we will go into the shadows with this gift.

Now trust in God who is always with you,
we will follow that life called discipleship.

BENEDICTION

(c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Prayers for the family and friends of the Buffalo fire fighter who died this week.
- Prayers for Irving Hils and his family in the recent passing of his wife, Alice.
- Prayers for healing for Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for healing for MacKintosh Barker.
- Prayers for healing for Tom Dugan.
- Prayers for Marlene Tyrrell and her family in the recent passing of her nephew, Gerald Tyrrell.
- Prayers for healing for Bob and Diane Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is at Sisters Hospital in ICU.
- Prayers for Erik's friend, Melissa.
- Prayers for Gilbert Laub's brother, Phillip, who suffered a stroke.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria displaced by the earthquakes, and for those first responders working with them.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 5

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)
10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)
1:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 6

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00 pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 7

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
1:00pm Deacons Meeting
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, March 8

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, March 9

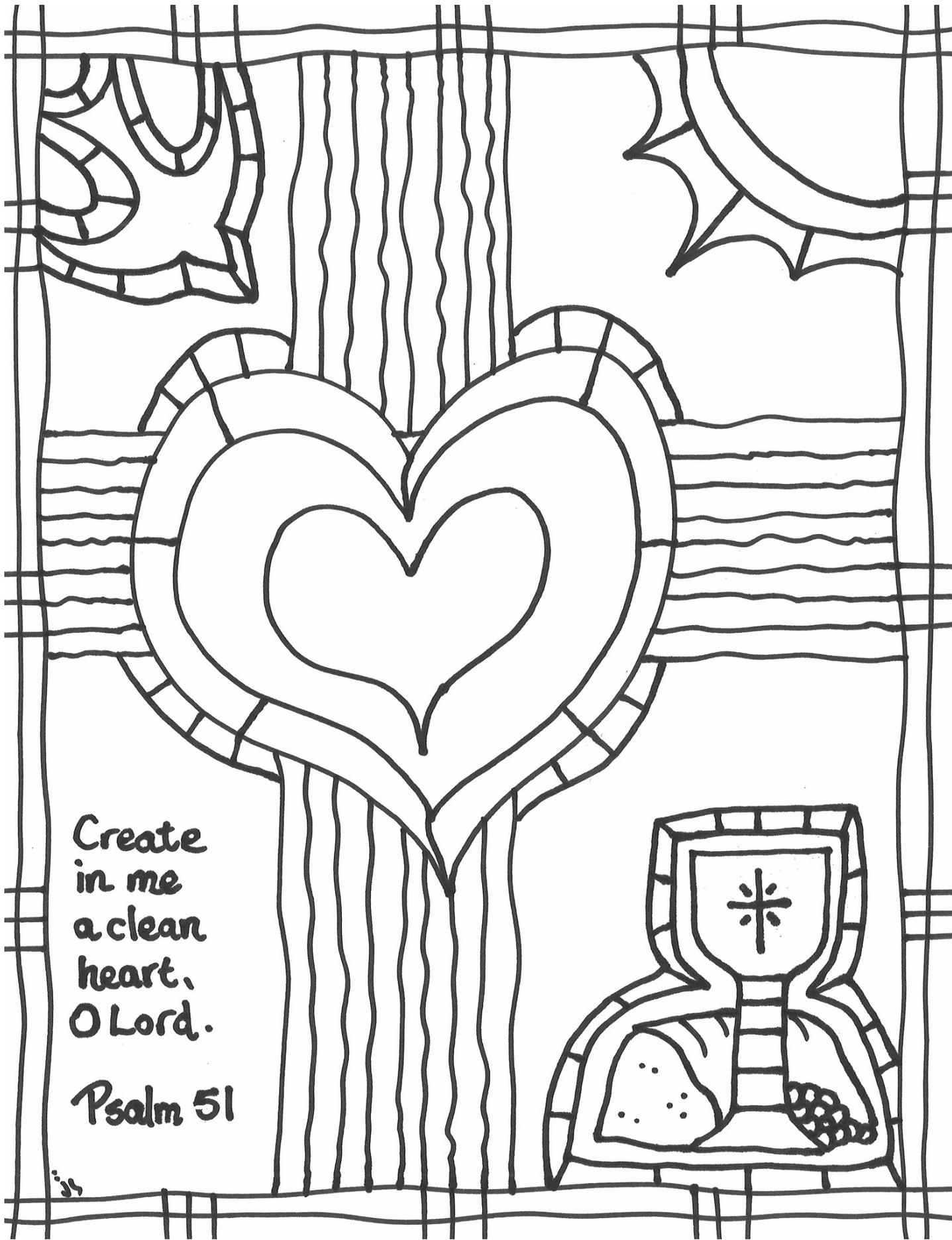
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship (Parlor)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Parlor)

Friday, March 10

6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)
7:30pm Raiders of Niagara Performance: Seven Keys to BaldPate

Saturday, March 11

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)
7:30pm Raiders of Niagara Performance: Seven Keys to BaldPate



Create
in me
a clean
heart,
O Lord.

Psalm 51