



First Presbyterian Church

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

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Second Sunday of Lent: PRAY**

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

March 13, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* #469

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw near to God

and God (*raise both arms to the sky*)

will draw near to us. (*bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart*)

When we pray, we are changed by being with God.

Let us (*extend arms forward, palms facing upward*)

keep company (*bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer*)

with Jesus. (*sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm*)

GATHERING PRAYER *A Prayer in the Midst of Division, by Katrina Paxson*

God of all people, I am overwhelmed with the divisions I see in our world. The polarizations, the conflicts, and the schisms weigh on my shoulders. I feel the constant pull to choose sides when I don't always fit completely on either side. I long for middle ground and acceptance. I yearn for understanding and fruitful conversations between people.

Help me work toward unity, while reminding me that unity does not always mean I must agree with my neighbors. Guide me with your Spirit. Increase in me an ability to discern when I should let go and when I should speak out—when I should choose a side and when I should reach out to both sides. Give me strength to love people even when we disagree. Open my eyes to see the gifts you have given to each person. Open my heart to help me understand other. Open my mouth to speak truth. Amen.

HYMN: #753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Philippians 1:3-11

Matthew 6:1-11

SERMON

“Pray”

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

_____’s Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give _____ this day their daily bread and forgive _____ their debts as _____ forgives their debtors, and lead _____ not into temptation, but deliver _____ 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

O God, we have beheld your goodness to us. Accept the offering of the work of our hands, and use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #700 *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

CHARGE *Phil. 1:9-11, adapted*

This is our prayer: that our love might become even richer with knowledge and all kinds of insight. We pray this so that we will be able to decide what really matters and so we will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. We pray that we will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” #753

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there is doubt, true faith in you.
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.
- 3 Oh, Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled, as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 4 Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” #700

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Scripture Readings

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Matthew 6:1-11

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ "Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.