



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

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

June 18, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE "Let All Things Now Living"

ASH GROVE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

As Abraham welcomed the strangers

So God welcomes us.

God greets us with joy

and says, "rest here for awhile."

God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.

God prepares a meal to nourish our weary spirits.

So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our God.

Let us rest in this holy place

where there is shade and water, food and laughter.

GATHERING PRAYER

***HYMN: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" #250**

PROMISE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit.

O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is the good news: it is not up to us. God has not wavered in keeping the covenant of grace, of hope, of mercy, of life.

By God's grace, we are forgiven; by God's healing, we are made whole; by God's constant love, we are restored to life. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)**

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to

the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"

¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

^{21:1}The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." ⁷And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN:

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹²What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 9:35-10:8

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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

SERMON: "Spreading Kindness to Strangers"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Graves into Gardens" - Hearts4Worship

Elevation Worship

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please respond in bold: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

PROFESSION

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

.....Please join me in prayer:

Gracious God,

**pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servants
whom you called through baptism as your own
and marked as your own.**

**Grant them the same mind
that was in Christ Jesus.**

**Give them a spirit of truthfulness
that they may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living
and rightly govern your people.**

**Give them the gifts of your Holy Spirit
to build up the church,
to strengthen the common life of your people,
and to lead with compassion and vision.**

**In the walk of faith
and for the work of ministry,
give to your servants
gladness and strength,**

**discipline and hope,
humility, humor, and courage,**

and an abiding sense of your presence. Clerk continues.....Amen.

Elders

**Mike Barry (ordained)
Patricia Loeswick (installed)**

Deacons

**Gail Borycki (ordained)
Linda Barry (installed)
Laura Marohn (installed)**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY: "Blessed Assurance"

ASSURANCE

DOXOLOGY: "Praise to God the Father" #605

DA N'ASE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We could not do it on our own – stepping out in faith, embarking on journeys to unknown places,
trusting in you above everything else. Bless these gifts and continue to strengthen us to follow you,
seeking the lonely, helping the broken, and bringing hope to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN: "Send Me, Jesus" #746**

THUMA MINA

Η ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΙΑΣ

