

Charting a New Course

Five Focus Points in Transition Ministry



Heritage

*Where do we come from?
How might our founders respond to current issues?*



Mission

*What has our core mission been?
What is it now?
How is that changing?*



Leadership

What leadership and support structures can make us most effective?



Connections

*Who is our neighbor?
Who are our partners?*



Future

*Where is the Spirit calling us to go?
Who is the Spirit calling us to be?.*

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First Presbyterian Church

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Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License # 2839486

September 11, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has gathered us in from the wilderness.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has swept away the darkness of the night.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.

GATHERING PRAYER

Merciful Lord, in Christ we see the lengths and depths to which you go to save us. Make us glad in our salvation, so that we may share this good news with friends and neighbors and with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining #192

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of our Lord overflows for us through the faith and love that are ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, saying, Create in us a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, forgive your foolish people.

We are skilled in doing evil,

but we do not know how to do good.

Create in us a clean heart, O God;

put a new and right spirit within us.

In the folly of our hearts

we live as though there is no God.

Create in us a clean heart, O God;

put a new and right spirit within us.

We forget all you have done for us,

and make false idols to be our gods.

Create in us a clean heart, O God;

put a new and right spirit within us.

We act faithlessly, violently,

and scorn your name.

Create in us a clean heart, O God;

put a new and right spirit within us.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by the gift of your Spirit show us the truth that you desire and teach us wisdom in our hearts. Let us hear with joy and gladness the Word that you speak today; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 43:1-21

¹But now, this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,

I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.

⁶I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’

Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

⁸Lead out those who have eyes but are blind,
who have ears but are deaf.

⁹ All the nations gather together
and the peoples assemble.
Which of their gods foretold this
and proclaimed to us the former things?
Let them bring in their witnesses to prove they were right,
so that others may hear and say, "It is true."
¹⁰ "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor will there be one after me.
¹¹ I, even I, am the LORD,
and apart from me there is no savior.
¹² I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.
You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God.
¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?"
¹⁴ This is what the LORD says—
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I will send to Babylon
and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians,
in the ships in which they took pride.
¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King."
¹⁶ This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
¹⁸ "Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.

Luke 5:27-39

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

³³ They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

³⁶ He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

SERMON: "Doing a New Thing a New Way"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

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 *God Bless America*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We rejoice and give you thanks, O God,
for the lost have been found,
sinners have received mercy,
and the dead have been restored to life.
Send us out in your service
to tend your sheep
and show the riches of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN:** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #339

CHARGE

Go now in the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who appoints us for service and makes us faithful.

BENEDICTION

May the Ruler of the ages,
the immortal and invisible one,
go with you, this day and every day.

We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee for sharing her gifts with us today.

Hymns

“Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining” #192

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. **Refrain**

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. **Refrain**

Lift Every Voice and Sing #339

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path
thro' the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the
wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.