



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 in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 12, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and see the ambassador of God's friendship for us.

We will find Jesus waiting to meet us:

**in classrooms, at a shopping center,
in all the common places and moments.**

Come and hear the One who speaks of God's joy in us.

**We will listen to Jesus, whose words of grace and peace
raise the rafters of our hope.**

Come and know how much God loves you.

We will discover Jesus, who offers us the gift of reconciliation.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord God, Great I AM, you are living water. As we worship you this day show us who we are: channels of your love and vessels of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "Come, Worship God" #386**

O QUANTA QUALIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Walking the dog, reading a bedtime story, recycling newspapers - in every moment, in every place, God is there. Let us confess how often we do not see God in our lives, especially in how we live them. Join me, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of eternity, you know how often we travel down the rocky roads of doubt and fear. We pester others with our worries; we hurl bitter words at those we love. We have chances to offer ourselves in service, but only give our contempt to those in need. We could share the living waters with the world, but want to store it in jars for safe-keeping.

Fountain of Grace, you turn towards us, to meet us wherever we are. You break open our rock-hard sin, so we might be made whole. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our thirst for hope and joy is quenched.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, through the reading of the Scriptures and by the power of your Spirit, may we hear for ourselves the good news, and believe, because of your Word, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷++He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: Ryan Tasevski, Piano

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: All Good Gifts

Psalm 95

¹O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work.

¹⁰For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

¹¹**Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."**

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"

¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ⁺They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERMON: "Generous Giving: What Belongs to God?"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #708

SCHUMANN

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Bring your gifts now to the Lord, giver of all good gifts.

THE OFFERTORY

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

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We pray, Gracious God, that our gifts may provide nourishment to those who thirst for justice, strength to those who hunger for hope, a community to those living in loneliness. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" #700**

SHAKERS

CHARGE

Let us go now, to meet all thirsting for God.

We will share the living water with everyone we meet.

Let us go now, to listen as Jesus does with us.

**We will hear the stories and hearts of all
who are considered voiceless by our world.**

Let us go now, to bring the Spirit's wholeness to others.

**We will bring peace and healing to the broken and lonely,
even as they offer us hope and grace by their lives.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

- Prayers for the family and friends of Jason Arno, the Buffalo fire fighter who died last week.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Kaley who was killed in a car accident and for the driver of the other vehicle. Her 4 year- old son, Wyatt, survived the accident. She is a friend of Laura Marohn's brother.
- Prayers for healing for Pastor Rebecca and her husband, Scott.
- Prayers for Irving Hils and his family in the recent passing of his wife, Alice.
- 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 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 12

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)
2:30pm Raiders of Niagara Performance: Seven Keys to BaldPate

Monday, March 13

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

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

Saturday, March 18

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

Sunday, March 19

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)
12:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)
2:30pm Raiders of Niagara Performance: Seven Keys to BaldPate

"Give to Caesar
what is his..."

... and to GOD
what is
God's "



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