

## 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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

CCLI License # 2839486

February 25, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world. Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him, that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "I Danced in the Morning" #157**

**LORD OF THE DANCE**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Given a test on our faith, would we have a passing grade? Looking at our lives of discipleship, would we be considered good models for others? When we fail to trust God, we discover that we do indeed lead barren lives. Let us be honest as we stand before our God, and bring our confessions for forgiveness and hope.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives.**

**God of Peter, Paul, and the psalmist, forgive us: for our lack of trust; for our faithless living; for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus.**

**Forgive us, so we may lay aside all the keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

This is the good news: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

**Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

<sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

## ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Praying with the Body

### PSALM 22:23-31

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
**stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

<sup>24</sup>For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
**he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
**my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
**May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
**and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
**and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
**before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
**future generations will be told about the Lord,**

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
**saying that he has done it.**

### GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

**SERMON: "Prayer in Motion"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "In My Life" #468**

**LORD, BE GLORIFIED**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

**THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: "We Praise You, O God, vs. 1" #612**

**KREMSER**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**May these gifts represent our willingness to deny ourselves, so others might be blessed by your grace, your peace, as well as your hope, in every moment of their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" #835**

**CLOSER WALK**

**CHARGE**

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.

**We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.**

Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

**We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.**

Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

**We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Go With Us, Lord" #749**

**TALLIS' CANON**

**We would like to thank Maria Crisafulli for sharing her gifts with us today.**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Randy Marohn  
 Greeter(s): Linda Barry  
 Coffee Hour: Diane Charsley

**Volunteers Next Week 3/3:**

Liturgist: Tom Dugan  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Leslie Dugan  
 Greeter(s): Linda Barry  
 Coffee Hour: B. Sibley, J. Schurr, S. Schurr  
 Communion: Pat Loeswick, Marilee Mathias

**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.**

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, Feb 25

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)  
 10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Feb 26

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, Feb 27

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
 1:00pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 28

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Feb 29

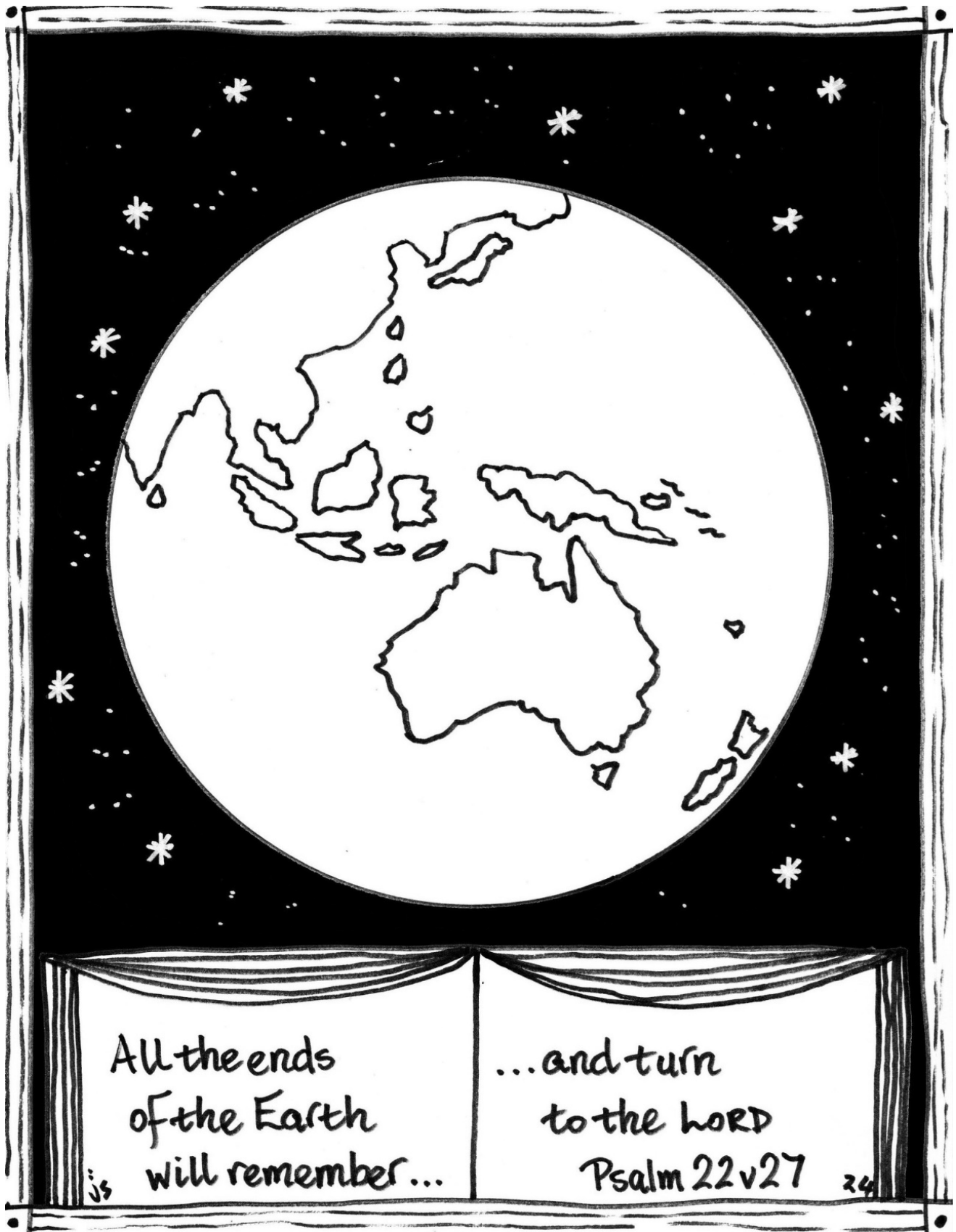
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
 6:00pm Hearts4Worship; 6:45pm Bell Choir; 7:15pm Choir

Saturday, Mar 2

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Mar 3

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)  
 10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



All the ends  
of the Earth  
will remember...

...and turn  
to the LORD  
Psalm 22v27