



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

We Celebrate the Baptisms of Elaina June & Cecelia Marie Edwards

7th Sunday of Easter

CCLI License # 2839486

May 21, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

At the presence of God, we rejoice:

glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

GATHERING PRAYER

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Amen.

***HYMN: "Christ is Alive!" #246**

TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know what we should do, yet don't. We know the words people need to hear, but utter the ones that hurt them. Yet, we also know that if we confess our failings to God, we will receive forgiveness and hope. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

CHILD'S PRAYER OF CONFESSION (by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee)

God, we are sorry for the things we did this week that we should not have done. **I'm sorry, God.**

We are sorry for the things we should have done, but didn't. **I'm sorry, God.**

Please help us to forgive our brothers and sisters and friends as you forgive us. **Help us forgive, God.**

God, thank you for loving us and forgiving us. **Thank you, God. Amen.**

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

This is the good news which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore, support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

FIRST GOSPEL READING: John 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Storytelling Tableaux: Jesus and the Children

HYMN: "Jesus Loves Me" #188

1) Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Yes, Jesus loves me (3X)
The Bible tells me so.

2) I love Jesus! Does he know?
Have I ever told him so?
Jesus likes to hear me say
that I love him every day.
Yes, I love Jesus! (3x)
And I will tell him so.

JESUS LOVES ME

BAPTISM: Elaina June and Cecelia Marie Edwards

HYMN: "Baptized in Water" #482

BUNESSAN

Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;

shout to God with loud songs of joy.

²For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

a great king over all the earth.

³He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

⁴He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

⁸God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

⁹The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

SERMON: "Making Us One: And How Are the Children?"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "These Treasured Children" #487

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Redeeming God,
you call us to devote ourselves constantly to prayer
for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, let us offer our prayers this day
on behalf of your church and the world, saying,
**fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Rescuing God, parent of orphans and protector of widows,
you give the desolate a home to live in
and lead out the prisoners into prosperity.

Help us to order the patterns of our common life
to support the health of your human family
and the welfare of your world.

**Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Steadfast God, you have given to your church
the inheritance of faith in Christ alone,
and bestowed your Spirit's love upon us to make us one in you.
Help us to grow in strength and courage
to witness to this hope:
that all may find your saving love eternally in Christ.

**Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Life-giving God, you send rain in abundance
to relieve the parched crops and thirsty land,
and make clean the winds of heaven.
Help us to find sustainable solutions
as we seek to honor and care for the well-being of your creation.

**Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Loving God, you heard the sufferings of your people, listened
to our cries, and sent a Son into our world that was no stranger to our pain.
Help us to offer your healing and compassion
as we minister to others in the mercy of your Christ.

**Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.**

Resurrecting God, you draw near to those who are sick and dying,

and you call them home to you. May we all know the joy of life eternal shared with you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, joining our voices together in the words that Jesus taught us:

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

Jesus said to the Father, All mine are yours, and all yours are mine. Therefore, let us offer to God this day our lives and labors in service of Christ's love.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"(chorus only) #240

ALLELUIA NO. 1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, you pour out your grace upon us without reservation; help us to be as gracious and generous with our gifts and resources, so others might know you hope, your healing, your presence in their lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "We Are One in the Spirit" #300**

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

CHARGE

The hour has come to go into the world,
**where our worship of God will continue
in every moment of our lives.**

The hour has come to serve those around us,
**to shoulder the burdens of our sisters,
to ease the pain of our brothers.**

The hour has come to glorify God,
**with our prayers as well as our praise,
with songs as well as acts of service.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Portions of the liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word; back cover image by Renée Tasevski.

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.



*Illustration by
Renée Tasevski*