



First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Elder Nancy Rolando**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

CCLI License # 2839486

September 25, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

The Lord God reigns forever, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, giver of all good gifts,
you have created us for life together,
and in Christ you have revealed to us
that the true riches of faith are good works,
generosity, and a desire to serve.
Strengthen us this day to pursue all righteousness,
godliness, and love with perseverance and gentleness,
that we may take hold of the life that is really life,
and dwell with you eternally. Amen.

HYMN: *Live into Hope #772

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we call out in need, the Lord will answer.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor,
trusting in the Lord who sets prisoners free.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We have sinned, O God, hoarding what we have,
grasping for more, and ignoring those who hunger and thirst.
We stay with our own kind; we are complacent in the face of
systems that oppress. Forgive us; purify us; remake us,
that we might love as you love. Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord welcomes all who return from the exile of greed and self-interest.
Be at peace, for in Christ we find our way home again where all are forgiven,
loved, and restored.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nurturing God,
you give life to all things and long to satisfy the needs of your children
in their desire for healing and wholeness. Send your Spirit upon us this
day, that as we hear your word we may meet Jesus, the one in whom all
our hungers are fed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalms 146

¹ Praise the LORD!

Let all that I am praise the LORD.

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live. I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath. ³ Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there.

⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. ⁵ But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the LORD their God. ⁶ He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. ⁷ He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down. The LORD loves the godly.

⁹ The LORD protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked. ¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever. He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations. Praise the LORD!

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

²² "Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

²⁴ "The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.'

²⁵ "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.'

²⁷ "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. ²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' ²⁹ "But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.' ³⁰ "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.' ³¹ "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

¹¹ But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. ¹³ And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ¹⁵ For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. ¹⁶ He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

SERMON: "Warning, Warning!"

Elder Nancy Rolando

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give you thanks and praise, generous God,
for every good gift that comes from your hand:
for food and clothing, for life and health,
for family and friends, above all for the treasure of your grace.
Make us rich in good works, generous and ready to share,
taking hold of the life that really is life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN: *Go to the World!* #295**

CHARGE

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

BENEDICTION

May the sovereign Lord bless you, may the Christ of mercy keep you, and the Holy Spirit sustain you, in this life and the life to come.

We would like to thank Elder Nancy Rolando for sharing her gifts with us today.

Hymns

“Live into Hope!” - #772

1. Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!
2. Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.
3. Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
4. Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace

“Go to the World!” - #295

1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth;
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.
2. Go to the world! Go into every place;
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace;
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.
3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyful day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.
4. Go to the World! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the host of glory cry, “Amen.” Alleluia. Alleluia.