



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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

CCLI License # 2839486

June 2, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we are relaxing after a long day,
when we are pacing midnight's floor,

God knows, and is with us.

When we are climbing the ladder of success,
when we have tripped over despair,

God knows, and guides us along the way.

When we are tongue-tied and in love,
when we struggle to speak of hope,

God knows, and gives us the words we need.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord God, who brings us mornings and beginnings, touch our heart to hear your call today. Grant us faith to rely on your extraordinary power in us that the life of Jesus may be made visible as we glorify you alone. Amen.

***HYMN: "To God be the Glory" #634**

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows—our thoughts, our hearts, our deeds, our inability to love, even our refusal to forgive others. Yet the One who knows us best, is willing to gather us up in loving arms of grace and mercy. Let us bring our confessions, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You search us, Wonderful God, and what do you find? People whose minds are so full of the world's trash, that there is no room to think of others. People who offer stale crusts to the hungry, not the food which gives them life. People who are so busy patting ourselves on the back, that we cannot reach out to those who have fallen.

Forgive us, All merciful God. May we listen to your words of grace, and become more gracious. May we hear your words of hope, and then live as people overflowing with it. When you call us, may we respond, 'here am I,' as faithfully as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news, dear friends: the One who knows our worst fills us with the best—grace, wonder, and forgiveness.

Our ears tingle with this news, our hearts overflow with hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May our hearts and minds be like the young boy Samuel, who didn't know the Lord, yet earnestly waited to hear your word. Speak to us, O Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for your servants are listening. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Recognizing Gifts We Share

Responsive Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹O LORD,

you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 2:23-3:6

²³One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?"

²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions."

²⁷Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

^{3:1}Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward."

⁴Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

SERMON: "Growing in Faith Together"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "O God, You Search Me" #29

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical version*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

Moment for Mission: Jack Haacker Memorial Scholarship Award

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

If we take a moment to reflect where our rich blessings come from, we know they are from the Lord. Let us acknowledge God as the source of our blessings through offering our gifts and ourselves.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "With Grateful Joy"

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

With grateful joy for You the Source of all life
We raise one voice to You from whom all blessings flow
You are the Giver of life
You are the Lover of life
The good Sustainer of life
We live in You

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Because you know us, O God, you are aware of our reluctance to share what we have. You continue to call us, to challenge us, to use us in the work of your kingdom. So take these gifts, and continue to call us to faithful lives and generous giving, so that others might be blessed as we are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of the Feast be with you.

And also with you.

Offer your hearts to our God, dear ones.

We do so, that God's light might shine in them.

Sing praises to God who loves us.

We rejoice in the One who invites us to this Table.

From the hollowness of chaos... we lift our voices in thanksgiving:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of delight.

All your wonder-filled works offer you praise.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes searching for us.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, yet know us intimately... while it is a mystery, we still proclaim our faith:

Christ died, carrying our death with him;

Chris was raised, bringing new life for all;

Christ will come, revealing your glory.

Before we even gather... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

***HYMN: "I Will Call upon the Lord" #621**

I WILL CALL

CHARGE

Knowing us better than we know ourselves,

God would have us go into the world.

We will go, so we might know others

as our siblings, not as strangers.

Trusting us better than we trust ourselves,

Jesus calls us to go and to serve others.

We will go, so that we might feed those who are hungry

and bring healing to those withered by hopelessness.

Gifting us better than we gift ourselves,
the Spirit fills us with all we need to be for those around us.

**We will go, so that we might be those clay jars
broken and poured out as grace for others.**

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Leslie Dugan
Greeter(s): Bonnie Sibley
Coffee Hour: Picnic
Communion: Laura & Alvin Marohn,
Nathan & Adam Harrington

Volunteers Next Week 6/9:

Liturgist: Scott Chaffee
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Randy Marohn
Greeter(s): Linda Barry
Coffee Hour: CE Team

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, June 2

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting
11:45am Church Picnic

Monday, June 3

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, June 4

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, June 5

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
12:00pm-3:00pm UFO (Unfinished Objects)

Thursday, June 6

9:00am – 2:00pm

Office Hours

10:00am

Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, June 8

8:30am

City Wide Garage Sale

9:30am – 3:30pm

Godly Play Taster Training (SESSIONS AT 10AM & 1PM)

10:00am

Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, June 9

10:30 am

Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

11:30am

Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

