



**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 of Easter

CCLI License # 2839486

**April 16, 2023**

**10:30 am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The whole creation rejoices;  
the birds sing from every tree.**

Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

**Babies babble with sounds of joy;  
words cannot express our overflowing hearts.**

Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

**Breathing peace on us in these moments;  
surrounding us with grace and hope.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

God of signs and wonders, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior. Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in Christ's name. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" #231**

**SUO GAN**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Afraid that God will find out how faithless we are, we try to lock up our hearts so God cannot see our foolish lives and failures. Let us confess our sins to the One who offers us peace and healing, as we pray together, saying,

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Hear the echoes of our locked hearts, Path of Life. We cross the borders into temptation and never seem to find our way back. We multiply the sorrows of others by our hurtful words and the harmful deeds we do. We see the ones you would give us to serve, but believe we do not have the abilities to care for them.**

**Have mercy on us, God whose Breath gives us life. Walk through the closed doors of our worries and doubts to stand in our midst, offering us that grace which can heal us, that hope which can enliven us, and that faith which enables us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

It is God's great mercy through the resurrection of Jesus which gives us that hope which lives within us.

**Thanks be to God for this precious gift by which we are able to believe and rejoice in our inheritance. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

### FIRST GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

<sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: We Add Our Pledges to the Tree

### Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>**I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."**

<sup>3</sup>As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>**Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;**

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out

**or take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;

**you hold my lot.**

<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

**I have a goodly heritage.**

<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

**in the night also my heart instructs me.**

<sup>8</sup>I keep the LORD always before me;

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

**my body also rests secure.**

<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

**<sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life.**

In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
**in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**SECOND GOSPEL READING: John 21:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

<sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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

**SERMON: "Generous Giving: Extravagant Hospitality"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "That Easter Day with Joy was Bright" #254**

**PUER NOBIS NASCITUR**

**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**

Sisters and brothers, we have no good apart from God. Therefore let us keep God at the forefront of our minds and give generously from all that we have been given, that others may also receive from the fullness of God.

## THE OFFERTORY

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

**ALLELUIA NO. 1**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May the gifts we offer be used to open doors closed to strangers, hands shut tight against generous giving, and hearts frozen by fears of the unknown. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "Let Us Build a House" #301**

**TWO OAKS**

## CHARGE

Go forth in the love of God.

**We will take this love into unlovely parts of our lives.**

Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet.**

Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

**We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us.**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Portions of the liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com

## 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 of Craig Erisman who passed away on April 9th.
- Sophie Auer, Tom & Leslie's granddaughter is recovering well from her surgery.
- Prayers for healing for Bob Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Shirley Hagle's sister's great, great granddaughter in Texas who was born one week ago with breathing problems.
- Prayers for healing for Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for the congregation of Marilee's brother and sister-in-law's church (Marion Aldersgate Church in Illinois), currently in discernment for a way forward.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

**Reminder: The yearly committee reports for the Annual Meeting are due today, Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## CALENDAR

Sunday, April 16

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 Beginner Bells (Music Room)

Monday, April 17

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm Bible Study – all are welcome  
7:00pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, April 18

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, April 19

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
10:00am Circle II

Thursday, April 20

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

Saturday, April 22

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
12p Girl Scouts Set-up (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 23

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 Girl Scouts Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

