



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
18th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

September 22, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our world offers many wide avenues
and beautiful boulevards to walk;

**Our God invites us to walk the road
of service and sacrifice.**

Our society suggests we put down our roots
in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

**Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,
watered by the rivers of joy and grace.**

Our culture promotes achievement, success,
climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

**Our God tells us if we want to be first
we need to go to the end of the line.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God of the first and the last, give us strength of mind, that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship without wasting our time thinking about who is more important. Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children, totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "God of Grace and God of Glory" #307**

CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION

While we try to live in God's way, we know how often we follow the wrong advice, or walk down sin's shadowed streets. Yet, God watches over us and calls us to confess, so we might be welcomed into the embracing arms of mercy and healing. Let us pray as we say,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, Wisdom from on high. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of disorder and conflict.

Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word is our wisdom; it gives us insight, strength, and courage. Open our hearts and our minds on this day, that we might receive what you want to give. Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31 The capable wife

¹⁰A woman of strength who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good and not harm all the days of her life.

¹³She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands.

¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from far away.

¹⁵She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her female servant.

¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.

¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

²⁰She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson.

²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.

²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.

²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband, too, and he praises her:

²⁹"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

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

All God's Children

Responsive Psalm 1

¹Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked

or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

²but their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

EPISTLE READING: James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understandable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. ¹⁵This is not wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

SERMON: “The Paradox of Community”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “There Is a Longing in Our Hearts” #470

LONGING

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

We have been made capable of being good stewards of what God has given us. Let us, with gratitude in our hearts, give from what has been given to us, by grace.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “Praise to God the Father” #605

DA N’ASE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rather than boast of all that we have and are, may we humble ourselves, as we offer our lives, our hearts, and our gifts, in putting others first, that they might discover the wonders of the kingdom of grace and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” #753**

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

CHARGE

Let us go to walk the road of service.

We will feed others with God's hope.

Let us go to break down the walls of resentment.

We will join the Servant of the world in embracing the refugees of despair and fear.

Let us go to teach kindness in our world.

We will gather up our sisters and brothers, and rest in the Spirit's peaceful lap.

BENEDICTION

Announcement:

There will be a Memorial Service here at our church for Mike Donovan on October 6 at 12pm following our worship service. More details to follow.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Bonnie Zimmer

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Greeter(s): Linda Barry

Coffee Hour: Laura Marohn

Volunteers Next Week 9/29:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Janet Schurr

Coffee Hour:

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, Sept 22

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

Monday, Sept 23

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Church Stretch
7:00pm CE Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 24

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime
1:00pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 25

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
11:00am Deep Talk
6:00pm Deep Talk
6:30pm CCG WNY Book Study: *Life After Doom* **(Zoom or In Person)**

Thursday, Sept 26

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Sept 28

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Sept 29

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

