



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

5th Sunday in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 26, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

With our lips and with our hearts:

we bless God in every moment of our lives.

With our ears and with our hearts:

**we will hear the cries of our sisters and brothers,
in every painful moment, in every broken place.**

With every gift and with our hearts:

**we will serve God and all of God's children,
with every moment of our lives.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "God is Here!" #409**

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

If it is true that God has recorded our failings, we hope it will never be published. But in truth, if the book was opened, every page would be blank, for God forgives us of everything we have done, or failed to do. So, let us wait for God's mercy and grace, as we come with our prayers for forgiveness, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are set free by your saving grace, Generous God, yet we must confess how we are still bound by our pride and arrogance. We seem unable to throw off the grave clothes of our habitual sin, finding them too comfortable to wear. We cling to our fears, for they are so familiar and make such good companions.

Yet, there in every corner of our lives, in every shadow we fear, into the cold embrace of death itself, you come, Steadfast Love. You break the bonds of sin and terror, giving us new strength and hope for the journey, and calling us to new life through the love and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" - The Handbell Choir arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²**Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴**But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸**It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Jesus and the Children

Mark 9:30-37; 10:13-16

SERMON: "Generous Giving: Making Room for Children"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Like a Child"

like a child

Unison

1 like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2 like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a
child on the street, Je - sus comes like a
child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a
child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a
child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes
child born a - new, Je - sus comes
child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon (1955-)
Words and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

LIKE A CHILD
3.3.3.3.3.3.D.

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: New Study Group - Rev. Nancy Bassett

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Without the breath of God, we are dry bones, and without the Word of God, we are dust. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord of all life.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Lord of All Good" (vs 1) #711

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For all left by the side of society, for all whose strength has vanished, for all whose bones are brittle with despair, may our gifts bring hope and healing, peace and plenty, in your name and in your love. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: "For Everyone Born" #769

FOR EVERYONE BORN

CHARGE

Now go forth with God's hope!

We have put flesh on our faith and will go to serve others.

Now go forth to fill others with Christ's Light!

We will go to call others to new life, wiping away their tears.

Now go forth with the steadfast love of the Spirit!

We will go to share that hope for which all people long.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Portions of the liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word and Front cover artwork 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 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 family and friends of Kaley who was killed in a car accident and for the driver of the other vehicle. Prayers for her 4 year- old son, Wyatt, who survived the accident. She is a friend of Laura Marohn's brother.
- Prayers for healing for Liam who has leukemia.
- 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 healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is out of the hospital and recuperating at home.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria displaced by the earthquakes, and for those first responders working with them.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 26

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)
11:50am Handbell Choir – Advanced (Music Room)

Monday, March 27

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting

Tuesday, March 28

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, March 29

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, March 30

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Friday, March 31

7:00pm Youth Retreat – Camp Duffield

Saturday, April 1

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
All Day Youth Retreat – Camp Duffield

Sunday, April 2

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)



*Illustration by:
Renée Tasevski*