



First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Mr. Michael Donovan**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License # 2839486**

September 18, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.**

GATHERING PRAYER

You hear the cries of your people
for justice and mercy; you answer our prayers
with the gift of your Son, who bears our burdens
and sets us free. Speak your truth to us;
purge and refine us; that we may love and serve you alone. **Amen.**

HYMN: *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit #408

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin,
God who is faithful, washes us clean. With one heart and
voice, let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator of the universe,
casualty of our sin, breath of life,
we come trembling before you
for we have hoarded and bartered
what has never been ours
in the hope of securing our future.
We have yearned for wealth more than we have
yearned for you. We have squandered your trust
and grieved your heart with our betrayal.
Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved of God,
the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
It cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Nothing
you have done, nothing you will ever do is enough to separate
you from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. I
declare in the name of the risen Christ that our sin is forgiven
and our lives are made new.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of life,
by the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love,
for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalms 113

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, you his servants;
praise the name of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be praised,
both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ The LORD is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

⁸ he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Luke 16:1-13

¹Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶“‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels^[b] of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

SERMON:

Mr. Michael Donovan

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 *There is a Balm in Gilead*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God,
source of our daily bread and Sabbath trust,
you feed us with your love and equip us to share in your purpose.
Receive the offerings of our wounded spirits, our guarded purses,
our meager strength, and continue to expand our hearts,
until we live with the boldness and joy of Easter morning;
for we pray in the name of your son, Jesus, and by the power of
your Spirit. Amen.**

***HYMN:** *To God Be the Glory #634*

CHARGE

Lead a life of peacefulness, of godliness and dignity,
seeking what is good and acceptable and right in the
sight of God our Savior.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope sustain you, the Holy Spirit keep you,
and Christ the Lord walk with you, today and every day.

We would like to thank Mr. Michael Donovan for sharing his gifts with us today.

Hymns

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” #408

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." **(Refrain)**

“To God Be the Glory” #634

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **(Refrain)**