



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

2nd Sunday in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 16, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, God comes, to gather us in worship:

to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.

Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

to bring hope to those who have none,

to love all tossed aside by indifference.

The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

so we might discover the gift of peace,

and offer it to our broken world.

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, you save all who seek refuge in you. Grant that we who know your salvation may walk always in your light, take courage in your faithfulness, and rejoice in your astounding goodness to us. Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" #488**

WATERLIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Join me in imitating all who have gone before us, who trusted that if they spoke of their misdeeds and hollow hearts, God would not only hear them, but forgive them. Let us pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, Mothering God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord Have Mercy" #579

KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open your Word by your Holy Spirit, so that we, like Abraham, may believe your promises to us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 The covenant with Abram

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates...."

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Faces of Easter II: Jesus is Lost and Found

Responsive Psalm 27 The Lord shall keep me safe

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—

my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰If my father and mother forsake me,

the LORD will take me up.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,

and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

¹²Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they are breathing out violence.

¹³**I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong,

and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52, NRSV

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

SERMON: "Jesus: Growing in Faith"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Star Child"

STAR CHILD

Star-Child

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1 Star - Child, earth-Child, go - be-tween of God, love Child,
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,
 3 Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child,
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav-ing, want-ing more, wise child,
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu-pen-dous sign, down - to -

Refrain

Christ Child, heav-en's light-ning rod:
 used child no one wants to know:
 lost child, sto-ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar-
 faith child know-ing joy in store:
 earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926-)
 Work and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

STAR-CHILD
 4.5.4.5.Ref.

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

Christ has given his life for us. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Holy, Holy, Holy" #595

ARGENTINE SANTO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, we would join in imitating you, by offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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

TWO OAKS

CHARGE

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:

we will take the Word of grace into our world.

Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:

we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.

Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:

we will gather the forsaken into our hearts.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Bonnie Zimmer

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Jessica Schurr & Billy Welch

Greeter(s): Jane Crossan

Coffee Hour: Theresa Rayner

Volunteers Next Week 3/23/25

Liturgist: Diane Charsley

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca & Ina Charsley

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, Mar 16

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, Mar 17

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
5:30pm Church Stretch
6:30pm-9:30pm Godly Play Core Training

Tuesday, Mar 18

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime
7:00pm Session

Wednesday, Mar 19

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Mar 20

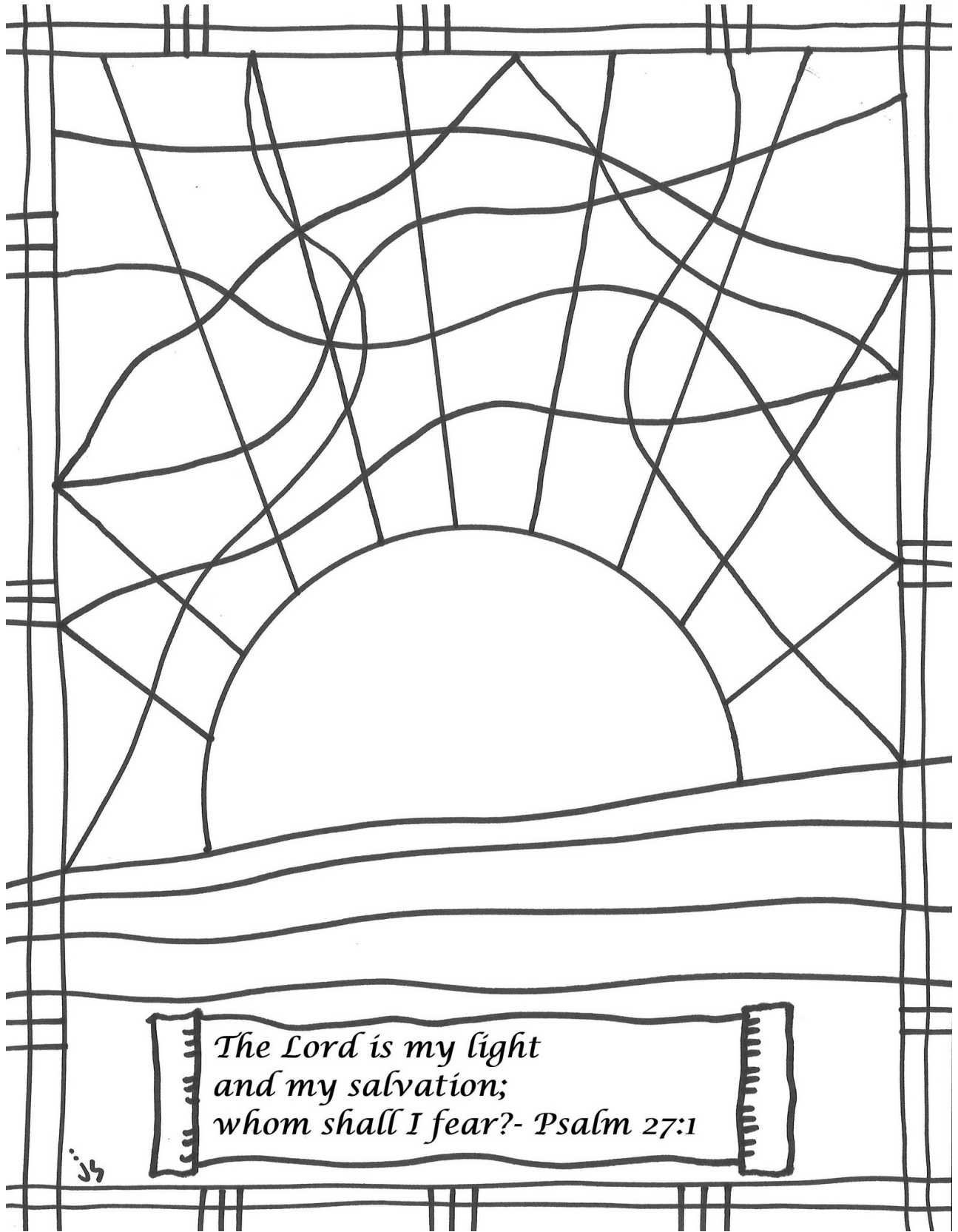
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Mar 21

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Mar 23

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



*The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?- Psalm 27:1*