



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
24th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

November 7, 2021

10:30 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who serve the poor; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who share the wealth; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who work for good; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who open doors; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who break down walls; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who challenge hate; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who live their faith; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who speak the truth; they will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who show Christ's love;

they will be called the children of God.

GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, our labors are in vain unless you labor with us, O God. Continue to bless the work of our hands, that we might labor for the glory of your name alone, through your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN: 318 *In Christ There Is No East or West*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus Christ came into the world to save us from sin, once and for all. Because of his sacrifice for us, God waits in mercy to forgive. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Lord, when we think too highly of ourselves and clamor after privilege and honor. Forgive us, Lord, when we cannot lift our gaze because we do not believe we have anything to give. You have given us the best gift of all: freedom from all that harms us and the way to abundant life. Have mercy on our foolishness and heal our broken hearts, that we may live faithfully for you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, the news is good and it is for each of us: in Jesus Christ, all our failings are washed away; our thirst for goodness is quenched. Remember your baptism and be glad!

PASSING OF THE PEACE #448 *Peace of God Be with You*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17

Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

The Rev. Leslie Latham

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, Presbyterian Outlook

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.

HYMN: #754 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

CHARGE

Trust in the Lord and know that God is at work within you.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north.
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth.

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

- 1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
- 3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love,
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.
- 4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit, Lord, free us, make us one!

Scripture Lessons

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

¹Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ²Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” ⁵She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as

you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;’⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”