

## 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

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

CCLI License # 2839486

March 2, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

From a cloud, and in a crowd, God speaks to us.

**Calling us to be lovers of justice, to share hope with the broken.**

On mountaintops, and in neighborhoods, Christ calls to us.

**With a word, and with wonder, molding us into who we are.**

On the playground, and at the workstation,  
the Spirit whispers in our hearts.

**Gathering up our fears, as well as our dreams,  
and offering them to God.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

God of majesty and might, you have blessed us with revelations of your glory. Give us the gift of faith, that we may hear your voice for ourselves and see Jesus Christ revealed to us that we may stand on our own without fear. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "Here in This Place" #401**

**GATHER US IN**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Sometimes we wait for God to astound us with whirlwinds of wonders, while God silently offers us grace. God waits to forgive us, so let us hold nothing back, but place our trust in the One who listens to our prayers and answers us with mercy.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We admit that we are often afraid to come near you, Glorious Creator. For if we do, you might see how our faces darken with anger as we speak hurtful words, or whiten with fear of those who are different, or redden from the depths of our desires. We can spend so much time gazing in the mirror of our longings, that we are unable to see the faces etched with loneliness, hollowed by hunger, overshadowed by hopelessness.**

**You reveal the mystery of your grace, Holy One, by pouring out mercy upon us. As you bend down to listen, may we speak your love to all those around us. As you call us into your presence, you send us out to do your justice which brings hope to the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, our Love, our Justice.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our hopes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves!

**By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God our light, make us attentive to your Word as to a lamp shining in a dark place, that seeing your truth we may live faithful lives until that great day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:29-35** Moses' face shone

<sup>29</sup>Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

<sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

<sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

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

**ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Mystery of Easter**

**Responsive Psalm 99** Worship upon God's holy hill

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

**He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is great in Zion;

**he is exalted over all the peoples.**

<sup>3</sup>Let them praise your great and awesome name.

**Holy is he!**

<sup>4</sup>Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

**you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup>Extol the LORD our God;

**worship at his footstool. Holy is he!**

<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

**They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.**

<sup>7</sup>He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

**they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them.**

<sup>8</sup>O LORD our God, you answered them;

**you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

<sup>9</sup>Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain,

**for the LORD our God is holy.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36** Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

<sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus,

"Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying.

<sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

<sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

## **SERMON: "Becoming Transformed"**

**SERMON HYMN: "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain" #193**

**UNSER HERRSCHER**

## **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**

Our God has revealed to us a law and a love that leads us into becoming God's own daughters and sons. Therefore, let us gratefully give from that which has first been given to us, our lives, our talents, and our possessions.

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #144 (vs 4)**

**CRANHAM**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We have stood on the high crests of hope, and wandered through the valleys of loneliness. And so, we know what peace, hope, grace, and wonder can mean to others. As we offer our tangible gifts to you, we would also share these blessings with those we will meet in the days to come. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

May the Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Overshadowing chaos,... we sing of our joy to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you,... we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

As we gather around your Table, ... Holy in One. Amen.

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

Come forward to receive the bread and the cup. A server will bring the elements to those unable to come forward, or those requiring Gluten free bread.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining" #192**

**SHINE, JESUS, SHINE**

### **CHARGE**

Go forth now, as lovers of the justice of our God.

**In cyber clouds, and in crowds of those searching for grace,  
we will offer the hope of the One who cares for all.**

Go now, as those who have been with Jesus on the mountaintop of wonder, to serve others in the broken valleys of life.

**With words of life on our lips, with the wonder of laughter in our hearts, we will follow Jesus to all  
who seek healing and love.**

Go now, as those who would offer the Spirit's peace to those around us.

**Teaching games of cooperation and not competition to kids,  
listening to the lonely whispers of those with whom we work,  
we will bring reconciliation to those who are strangers to hope.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Sue Schurr  
Tech: Betsy Crocker  
Usher(s): Linda Barry  
Greeter(s): Diane & Bob Eshelman  
Coffee Hour: Laura & Alvin Marohn  
Communion: Diane Charsley, Pat Loeswick

**Volunteers Next Week 3/9/25**

Liturgist:  
Tech: Betsy Crocker  
Usher(s):  
Greeter(s):  
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.**

- Prayers for our shut-ins: Linda, Doug, Shirley, Peggy, Bonnie, Adehlia, Sarah, Margaret, Lucille, Lynette, Jack, Sue, John, Marlene, Joy, Mary, Jack, and Kathy.
- Prayers for Pastor Rebecca for healing after surgery.
- Prayers for George who is in Hospice and his family, Sue Schurr's uncle.
- Prayers for Eric and his friends.
- Prayers for Marissa's grandfather, Richard who has cancer, friend of Jessica and Billy.
- Prayers for Gail Borycki who is home from rehab.
- Prayers of joy for Greg for his successful treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for Terry DeLuca's brother, Paul who is in rehab.
- Prayers for Bonnie Sibley for her upcoming surgery.
- Prayers for Carolyn & Bob, cousins of Diane Eshelman
- Prayers for Rebecca Penny for healing and finding a diagnosis.
- Prayers for Bonnie who has Stage 4 Lung Cancer.
- Prayers for Rod MacLeod.
- Prayers for all the First Responders.
- Prayers for Jack and Kathy Greenawalt.
- Prayers for Gordy who has kidney disease, friend of Nancy Rolando.
- Prayers for Renay LaBuda who has cancer, friend of Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for Allan Roth who is dealing with prostate cancer.
- Prayers for Pam Lunetta, (teacher at Fletcher School) with cancer.
- Prayers for Jim Mourgas who has medical concerns.
- Prayers for Linda McMahan who is having complications from cardiac surgery.
- Prayers for Sue Schurr's friend, Bev for healing.
- Prayers for Sue Schurr's friend, Lori with eye problems.
- Prayers for Shaylee Klaes who has bone cancer.
- Prayers for the members of St. Francis Church.
- Prayers for Mary Withey for healing.
- Prayers for those struggling in drug addiction and for the family members.
- Prayers for Derick Blake and his children.
- Prayers for Bob McMahan who has cancer, Jane Crossan's brother-in-law.
- Prayers for Dana who has cancer.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, Mar 2

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 3

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

Tuesday, Mar 4

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

Wednesday, Mar 5

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
12:00pm UFO(Parlor)  
5:30pm Ash Wednesday Supper Church

Thursday, Mar 6

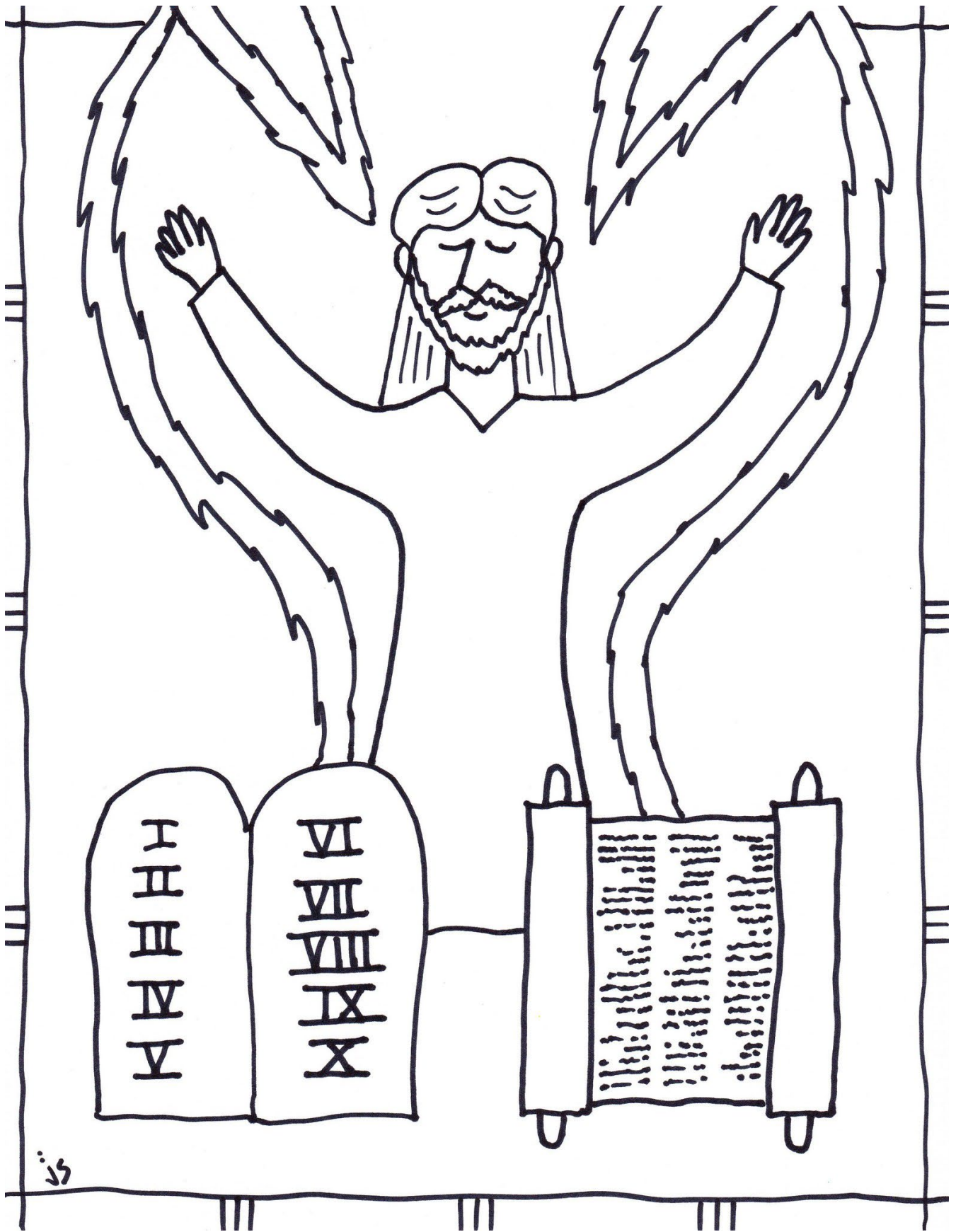
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Mar 8

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Mar 9

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



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.