



First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Elder James Sanford**

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

August 14, 2022

10:00 am

PRELUDE *Healer of Our Every Ill*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God gives justice to the weak and the orphan;
God rescues the weak and the needy.
Blessed be the one, holy and living God,
now and forever.

GATHERING PRAYER

Faithful God,
You have blessed us with the inheritance of grace
that we might live as people of justice, righteousness,
and peace. Stir in us your power and fill us with
the love of Christ, strong and true, that we may be always
eager to serve your promised reign of peace. **Amen.**

HYMN: *How Great Thou Art #625

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins, for God is gracious and strong to save.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of goodness and truth,
we have failed to seek after your wisdom
and have followed paths that have led away
from you. Forgive our foolish ways,
and lead us in your truth, that we may live in the
fullness of life as you intend through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, your sins are forgiven,
for God is merciful and just.
Therefore, be reconciled to the Lord
and to one another, walking in the light of Christ.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,
Your Word is like fire. By the power of your Spirit,
illumine our sight and enflame our hearts,
that we may live lives more faithful to your will. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

II Corinthians 1:3-11

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Job 38:1-18

¹ Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

² “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— ⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

⁸ “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, ¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, ¹¹ when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?

¹² “Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, ¹³ that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it? ¹⁴ The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment. ¹⁵ The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken.

¹⁶ “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this.

SERMON:

“Good Grief”

Elder James Sanford

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

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the ages, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we faithfully add our gifts to those who have gone before us throughout the generations. Bless these gifts that they may yield an increase for the spreading of your love in the world. Amen.

HYMN: *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?) #821

CHARGE

Christ walked in perfect faith that we might follow in the way of peace.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, grant you the perseverance and courage to follow him in all justice, righteousness, and peace.

We would like to thank Elder James Sanford for sharing his gifts with us today.

Hymns

“How Great Thou Art” #625

1 O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

(Refrain)

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

2 When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. **(Refrain)**

3 And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. **(Refrain)**

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, and there proclaim,
"My God, how great Thou art!" **(Refrain)**

“My Life Flows On” (How Can I Keep from Singing) #821

1 My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**

3 What though my joys and comforts die, I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. **[Refrain]**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? **[Refrain]**