



## **First Presbyterian Church**

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

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God**

**May 2, 2021**

**10:00am**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the wilderness, water brings life.

**Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

**Come, let us worship God.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

And from what source, O tree—

since of yourself you are dead and barren—

do you get these fruits of life? From the tree of life—

for unless you are engrafted into him

you would have no power to produce any fruit at all,

because you are nothing.

So through you who are life, we will produce the fruit of life

if we choose to engraft ourselves into you.

*~Catherine of Siena*

**HYMN:**      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      #366

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**We have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to us. In baptism God claimed us and joined us to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to us: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 8:26-40

John 15:1-8

SERMON:

The Rev. Leslie Latham

## 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.

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

...and with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God...

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Here at this Table we celebrate resurrection as you feed us with bread and wine. As much as we might prefer to stay here in this protected place, you send us back to our work—only it is no longer the same work because we know you are with us and in us, transforming us to be your witnesses in the world. Nourished in body, mind, and spirit, may all that we say and do give you glory. **Amen.**

**CHARGE**

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine. Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

**BENEDICTION**

**Hymns**

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down.  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe, thy loving spirit into every troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, sets our hearts at liberty.

3. Come Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love

4. Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, til in Heaven we take our place.  
Til we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

**“In Christ There Is No East Or West”**

1. 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.