



First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Hope Harle-Mould**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

CCLI License # 2839486

August 7, 2022

10:00am

PRELUDE *Praise Ye the Lord*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens declare the righteousness of God.

The earth declares God's beauty.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

God's word shines forth in glory.

GATHERING PRAYER

O God of promise, creator of the cosmos,
you are the first light breaking through the void,
and the final light we shall eternally enjoy.

Keep our hearts ever vigilant
as we wait to welcome you,
that you would find us clothed in love,
dressed for action, and eager to receive you. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God #286*

CALL TO CONFESSION

My brothers and sisters, remember that God loves us;
therefore by the mercy of God,
let us cease to do evil and learn to do good.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you call us to do good,
seek justice, and care for those in need,
yet how often we place our own comforts
above compassion for others.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
and cleanse us from these and all our offenses
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful and kind;
though our sins are like scarlet,
they become like snow.

Be at peace,
for your sins are washed clean by the goodness
of God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Galatians 4:13-15

¹³ As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, ¹⁴ and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

2 Corinthians 11:24-33

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

SERMON: *"God's Apostrophe in 'Un'answered Prayer'"* **The Rev. Hope Harle-Mould**

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Blessing in the Thorn"* by George Miller, with Pastor Hope, guitarist

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

OFFERING *God Welcomes All*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you look down from heaven,
see all humankind, and long to call
us home.

Accept these gifts on behalf of your people,
that they would increase faith,
nurture hope,
and be reckoned as righteous in your sight. Amen.

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION

Come to the Table of Grace #507

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.

*... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:
Holy, holy, holy...*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

CHARGE

Be dressed for action and ready to serve,
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

BENEDICTION

Be not afraid,
for it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom,
an unfailing treasure and eternal blessing.

We would like to thank Hope Harle-Mould for sharing his gifts with us today.

Hymns

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #286

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

“Come to the Table of Grace” #507

- 1 Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.
- 2 Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.
- 3 Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.
- 4 Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.
- 5 Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” - #488

1. I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.
2. When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk ‘till rising sun.
3. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
4. I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

"Blessing in the Thorn" by George Miller (of WNY)

I read about a man of God who gloried in his weakness,
And I wish that I could be...more like him and less like me.
Am I to blame for what I'm not, or is pain the way God teaches me to grow?
I need to know!

CHORUS:

*When does the thorn become a blessing,
When does the pain become a friend,
When does the weakness make me stronger,
When does my faith make me whole again?
I want to feel His arms around me
In the middle of my raging storm,
So that I can see...the blessing in the thorn.*

I've heard it said the strength of Christ is perfect in my weakness,
And the more that I go through...the more I prove the promise true.
His love will go to any length, it reaches even now to where I am,
But tell me once again... (Chorus)

Lord, I have to ask You on the cross You suffered through,
Was there a time You ever doubted what You already knew? (Chorus)

A QUOTATION FOR MEDITATION

When Our Loved One is Seriously Ill

A poem by Hope Harle-Mould

We pray for a cure, God sends us healing.
We pray for continued life, God gives us new life.
We pray death will not come, God overcomes death.
We pray in anguish, God weeps with us.
We pray in fear, God teaches us to laugh.
We pray for ourselves, God gives us each other.
We pray for miracles, God fills us with love.
We pray for the future, God showers today with blessedness