

## 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**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

CCLI License # 2839486

February 16, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed are those who trust—in God!

**We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.**

Blessed are those who hope—in God!

**We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.**

Blessed are those who delight—in God's Word!

**We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

God our Delight, your word guides us in paths that are true. Plant our roots deep in faith so we may withstand any hardship. Watch over us, we pray, as we meditate on you day and night, and let our delight be in you. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" #509**

**HOLY MANNA**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Now, if what we hear from the world is true, we would have no need to come before God. But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true. God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts, as well as offered our brokenness. Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts. We have more and more to choose from at the market, and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.**

**Forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

**Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

O God, whose Word is like water to the root of the tree, let your Word now flow into us that we might flourish—bearing gospel fruit for a hungry world. In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10** Those who trust the Lord are like trees

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall

not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

## **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

**Responsive Psalm 1** The way of the righteous

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
**or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,**

<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and on his law they meditate day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,  
**and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.**

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so  
**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,**

<sup>6</sup>for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26** Blessings on the poor, woes on the rich

<sup>17</sup>He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

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

**SERMON: "Like a Tree Planted by Water"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" #753**

**PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS**

**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**

Luke tells us that people came to Jesus from all directions, seeking healing and peace. We are the body of Christ, surrounded by the many needs of the world around us. So bring your tithes and offerings, that these gifts may foster healing and encourage peace.

**THE OFFERTORY**

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

**CRANHAM**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "When Peace like a River" #840**

**VILLE DU HAVRE**

**CHARGE**

Grounded in God's love, we are sent out  
**to share abundance with those who have so little.**

Blessed with Jesus' hope, we go forth  
**to fill the emptiness of those longing for justice.**

Blessed with the Spirit's delight, we dance into the world  
**to take the hands of our sisters and brother,  
and gather at the edge of living waters for a picnic.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Diane Charsley

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Greeter(s): Lynn Hyland

Coffee Hour: Theresa Rayner

**Volunteers Next Week 2/23/25**

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca & Ina Charsley

Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias

## **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.**

## **CALENDAR**

Sunday, Feb 16

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, Feb 17

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm Church Stretch  
7:00pm Session

Tuesday, Feb 18

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

Wednesday, Feb 19

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Feb 20

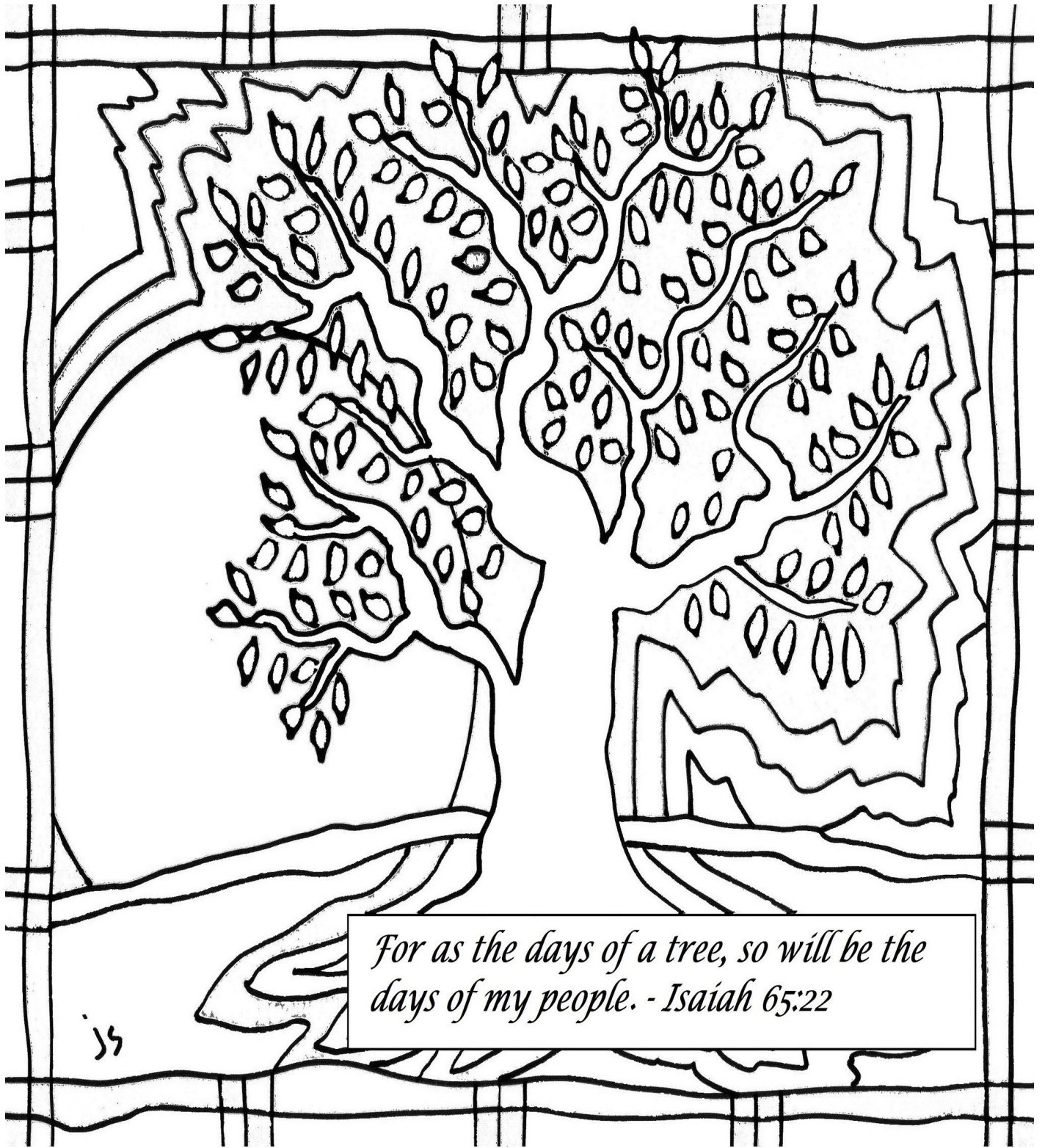
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Feb 22

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Feb 23

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



*For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people. - Isaiah 65:22*