



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 9, 2022

10:30am

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, www.stephenmfearing.com

We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

We will not fear, for God is with us!

The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

**Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us
are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.**

Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

GATHERING PRAYER

God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold. We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness, for there is none like you. Amen.

HYMN: #53 *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of deliverance, you once parted the sea so that your people could cross from bondage and oppression to freedom, and yet we often doubt you are at work and believe that miracles don't exist in the world anymore. We act as though we have forgotten that you gave us Jesus who knows our suffering, the Holy Spirit who empowers us, and one another as companions on the journey. We act as if we are all in the same boat, but we are not. Our boats are very different, and some are sinking, and some are drowning. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

When the waters threaten to overwhelm us, God promises to be with us. Through the waters of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are raised with Christ to a life full of promise. Beloved children of God, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 14:19-31

Luke 3:15-22

SERMON:

The Rev. Leslie Latham

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless and multiply these gifts, God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve. Amen.

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION

#399

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

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

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

CHARGE

Remember, you are God's beloved, called and claimed to love as you have been loved. May God bless you and keep you, this day and in the days to come. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

O God, Who Gives Us Life - #53

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb;
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
As on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry - #488

1 I was there to hear your borne 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 borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."