

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

First Sunday in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

February 26, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

We worship the Lord our God alone.

GATHERING PRAYER

Wild God of wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Amen.

***HYMN: "The Glory of These Forty Days" #165**

ERHALT UNS, HERR

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a parent, God seeks to set boundaries for the children of God. And, like children, we are stubborn enough to want to do things our own way. So, we become easy prey for the evil one. But Jesus, our Sibling, shows us how to find the will, the strength, to resist and to know the mercy of God. Together, let us confess our sins, so God might fill us with hope and joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Eden's morning, we know that Lent is a hard time for us. In a culture which showcases success, you call us to sacrifice ourselves for others. In a world which promotes power, you invite us to deny ourselves. In a society which encourages us to "feel good," you point us to the struggles of siblings, the burdens others bear.

By your mercy, forgive us, Hope of our lives. Remind us that as we journey with Jesus, we learn the steps of discipleship. As we listen to his call to obedience, may we learn how to say "no" to all that tempts us. As we see his suffering, may we live out the good news which has come to us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

By ourselves, we would be easily controlled by sin and temptation. But God has given us the free gift of grace, and so we are set free to live as disciples.

This is the gift which brings us hope; this is the gift which brings us joy; this is the gift which brings us life. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, may the words of your mouth be our daily bread, and may the leading of your Spirit become our way; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

³¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Giving Tree

Psalm 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silence,
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,

and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Matthew 25:34-40

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

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

SERMON: “Generous Giving: Sharing with the Least of These” Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table” #186 COME NOW, YOU BLESSED

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Dedicate Giving Tree Items

CALL TO THE OFFERING

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives and our gifts to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Lord of All Good" (vs. 1) #711

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the privileged always share with the forgotten, may the powerful learn the grace of humility, and may our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: When We Are Living #822

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

CHARGE

Now, from where God has gathered us, let us go.

**To discover that the stranger and homeless,
the prisoner and the hospice patient and everyone else
are our sisters and brothers.**

Now, from where we have been fed, let us go.

**To join Jesus in serving those who thirst for righteousness
as well as those who hunger for justice.**

Now, from where we have been one, let us go.

**To find those who have been tossed aside,
gathering them up to bring them
to the Spirit's goodness and peace.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Portions of the liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word

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.**

- Prayers for Irving Hils and his family in the recent passing of his wife, Alice.
- Prayers for healing for MacKintosh Barker.
- Prayers for healing for Tom Dugan.
- Prayers for Marlene Tyrrell and her family in the recent passing of her nephew, Gerald Tyrrell.
- Prayers for healing for Bob and Diane Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is at Sisters Hospital in ICU.
- Prayers for Erik's friend, Melissa.
- Prayers for Gilbert Laub's brother, Phillip, who suffered a stroke.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria displaced by the earthquakes, and for those first responders working with them.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 26

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)
10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30 am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Feb 27

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00 pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Feb 28

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, March 1

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, March 2

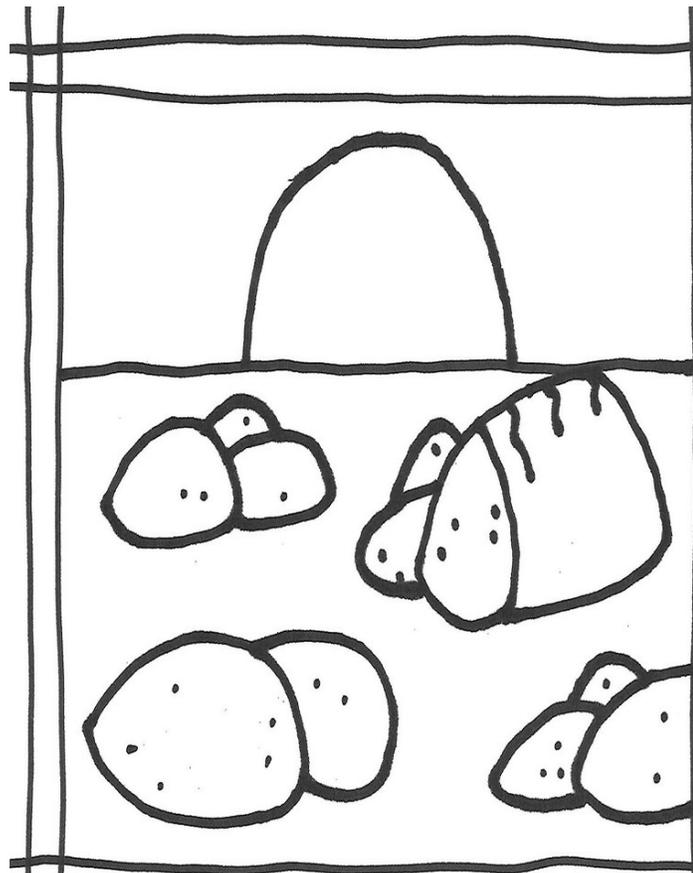
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship (Parlor)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Parlor)
6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, March 3

5:30pm Christian Ed Meeting

Saturday, March 4

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)



LENT

the journey

begins

