



First Presbyterian Church

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

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Fourth Sunday of Lent: EMBRACE SIMPLICITY**

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

March 27, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw near to God

and God (*raise both arms to the sky*)

will draw near to us. (*bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart*)

When we embrace simplicity, we untangle our lives

so we can focus on loving and serving God.

Let us (*extend arms forward, palms facing upward*)

keep company (*bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer*)

with Jesus. (*sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm*)

GATHERING PRAYER

It's a gift to live simply where we serve and we love

It's a gift to follow our great God above.

When we walk with Jesus and keep company with him,

We'll play and we'll dance as we sing this hymn.

Where true simplicity is found,

our hearts are with God, our feet on the ground.

To give such love will be our delight

And by giving and loving, we live in God's light.

***HYMN:** #307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, we confess that we do not live according to your way. You bless those who are poor with the promise of your eternal realm, but we desire wealth and the consolation of earthly treasure. You bless those who are hungry with the promise of fullness of life, but we enjoy rich feasts and are never satisfied with enough. You bless those who are weeping with the promise of laughter, but we praise positivity and mock your suffering servants. You bless those who are hated with the promise of great reward, but we seek approval and despise those who are different. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to seek your blessing and to be a blessing for others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Receive the blessing of the living God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. Receive the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

KYRIE ELEISON

#579

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Matthew 6:19–21; Philippians 4:1–13

SERMON

“Listen to God”

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN:** #157 *I Danced in the Morning, vv. 1-4*

CHARGE

Go forth as ambassadors for Christ, in whom we have new life.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

God of Grace and God of Glory #307

1 God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient Church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!

From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;

shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

I Danced in the Morning, vv. 1-4 #157

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
They came with me and the Dance went on. (Refrain)

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a Cross to die. (Refrain)

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on. (Refrain)

Scripture Lessons

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Philippians 4:1-13

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.