

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

4th Sunday in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 19, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *All the People Said Amen* - Hearts4Worship

Matt Maher

CALL TO WORSHIP

Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, We long for your simple gifts for our lives. We long for your peace. We long for your joy. We long for your hope. We long for your love. We long for your touch. We long for your grace. We long for your healing. We long for your touch. O Lord, open a spring in our lives that daily refreshes us with your simple gifts.

(— written by Rev Abi, on Long and Winding Road. <http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.ca/>)

***HYMN: “As Those Of Old Their Firstfruits Brought” #712**

FOREST GREEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

God longs for us to sit by the still waters of love, but we are too busy stirring up trouble with our actions, with our words, with our inability to be God's children. Let us bring our prayers to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like Cinderella, Loving God, we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world.

Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person.

Now we will go forth as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me."

And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Little Free Pantry

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Luke 7:36—8:3

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him--that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak."

⁴¹"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

^{8:1}Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

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

SERMON: "Generous Giving: Providing From Our Resources"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" #803

RESIGNATION

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.

DEDICATE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.
Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
we bring now our tithes and offerings to God,
with gladness and gratitude.

THE OFFERTORY

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

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With you as our shepherd and by sharing our gifts, we can indeed anoint others with grace, prepare feasts for the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love those we consider to be our enemies. Bless these gifts, and use our lives for others, we pray. Amen.

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

HOLY MANNA

CHARGE

Now go to take the love of God into the world.

We will show others the way to God's fields of grace.

Now go to take grace of Jesus into the world.

We will seek to bring others to the still waters of peace.

Now go to take the community of the Spirit into the world.

We will work to restore the lives of all whom we meet.

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 healing for Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Kaley who was killed in a car accident and for the driver of the other vehicle. Prayers for her 4 year- old son, Wyatt, who survived the accident. She is a friend of Laura Marohn's brother.
- Prayers for healing for Liam who has leukemia.
- Prayers for the congregation of Marilee's sister-in-law and family, currently in discernment for a way forward.
- Prayers for healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is at Sisters Hospital in ICU.
- 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, March 19

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)
11:50am Handbell Choir - Beginners (Music Room)
2:30pm Raiders of Niagara Performance – Seven Keys to BaldPate

Monday, March 20

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
7:00pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 21

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, March 22

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Circle II

Thursday, March 23

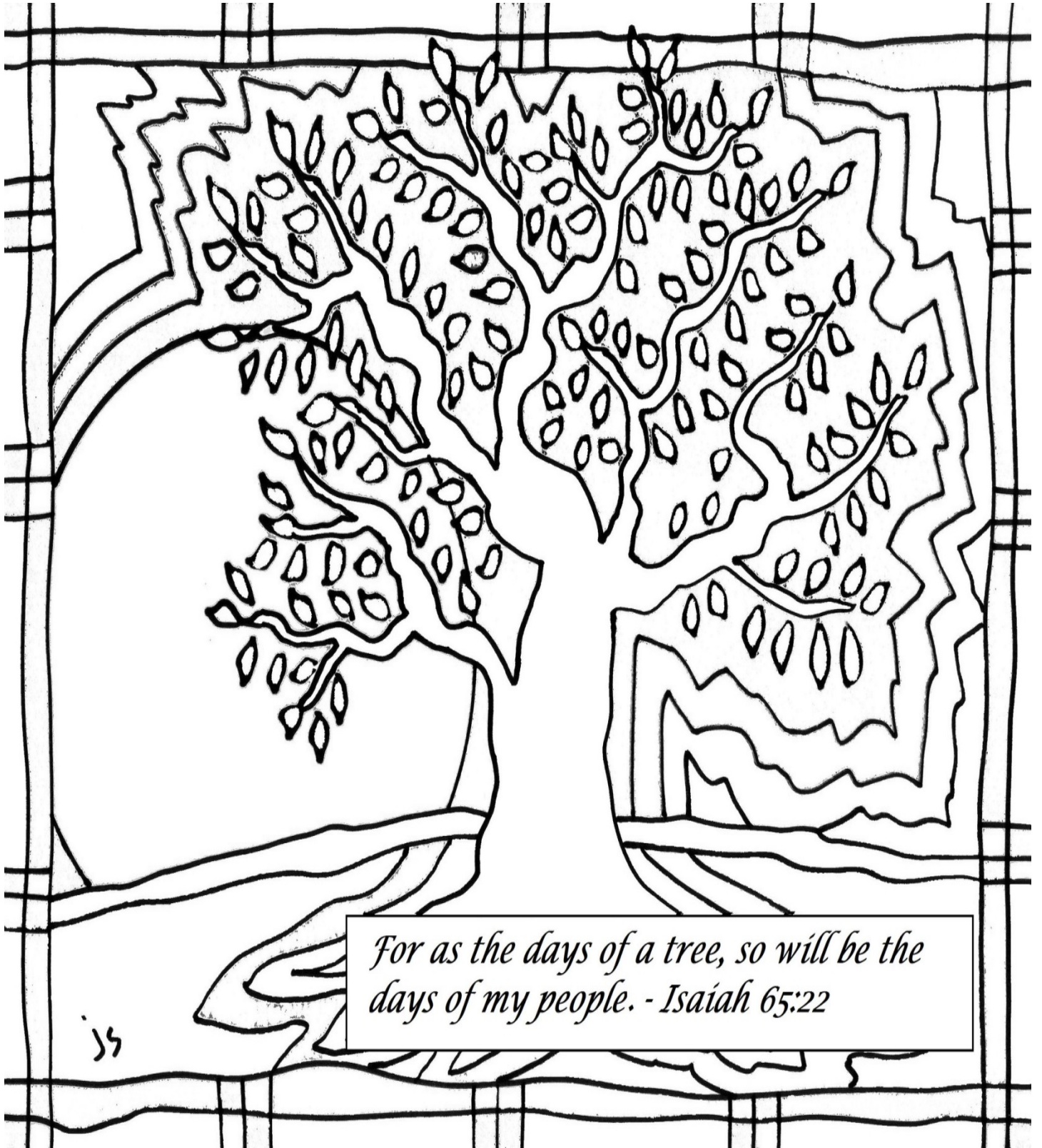
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship (Parlor)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Parlor)

Saturday, March 25

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, March 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)
11:50am Handbell Choir – Advanced (Music Room)



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

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