



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

3rd Sunday in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 23, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, because we seek our God.

Every morning, every day, every evening, every moment, God is with us.

We come, because we hunger for Christ.

Jesus will feed us with hope, will replace our emptiness with grace.

We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

Who fills our yearning for peace, who ends the drought of justice.

GATHERING PRAYER

Your glory and power, O God, surround us in the sanctuary. We lift up our hands and call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "Ho, All Who Thirst" #479**

JACOB'S WELL

CALL TO CONFESSION

Do you think that because you have spoken hurtfully, or failed to help, or left God behind as you travel through each day, that God forgets you? God's love is as constant as the sun; God's forgiveness is as sure as the stars in the night sky. Let us join together, as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The thirsty come,
and we offer lead-filled water;
the hungry come,
**and we offer a single can from
our overflowing pantries;**
the lonely come,
and we cling to our cliques;
the broken come,
and we hand them an aspirin;
the needy come,
**but we have wasted everything
on stuff we do not need.**

Have mercy on us, Steadfast love, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, may we go to be with all around us. May we listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness. **We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord Have Mercy" #579

KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9 Come to the water

¹Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Faces of Easter III: Jesus' Baptism and Blessing by God

Responsive Psalm: 63:1-8 O God, eagerly I seek you

¹O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

beholding your power and glory.

³Because your steadfast love is better than life,

my lips will praise you.

⁴So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,

and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶when I think of you on my bed

and meditate on you in the watches of the night,

⁷for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

⁸My soul clings to you;

your right hand upholds me.

Gospel Reading: : Matthew 3:1-17

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

SERMON: “Jesus: Baptized and Blessed”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain” #193

UNSER HERRSCHER

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

Disciples of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread, and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give to things that are of God: bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and sons and daughters alike. We bring before God a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “Holy, Holy, Holy” #595

ARGENTINE SANTO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Having been blessed by you, Loving God, we will not waste our gifts but offer them back to you, so the parched throats might be soothed by your grace, the hungry feed on your bounty, and the stranger welcomed as family who have been away for too long. This we pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters” #490

BEACH SPRING

CHARGE

God sends us out to empty our gifts for others.

Letting us charge whatever we need to grace's account.

Jesus sends us out to find those who are thirsty and hungry.

Giving us the water for parched children,

filling our arms with bags of groceries for the hungry.

The Spirit sends us out to search for those who long for community.

Taking us by the hand when we grow weary,

so we might continue to welcome the stranger.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Diane Charsley

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca & Ina Charsley

Coffee Hour:

Volunteers Next Week 3/30/25

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Laura & Alvin Marohn

Coffee Hour:

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, Mar 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)

Monday, Mar 24

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

5:30pm Church Stretch

6:30pm-9:30pm Godly Play Core Training

Tuesday, Mar 25

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Mar 26

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Mar 27

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Mar 29

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Mar 30

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

