



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Pastor Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

February 21, 2021

10:00am

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

From water to wilderness:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

for where he is, we would be also.

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In your triune name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN: "Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days"

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CALL TO CONFESSION:

God's bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. *Time for Silent Confession*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE**GLORIA PATRI****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

SERMON:**The Rev. Leslie Latham****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE LORD'S PRAYER** *ecumenical version*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and 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**DOXOLOGY****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You call us in many ways, O God, for many tasks. In thankfulness for all your gifts to us of life, breath, love, and grace, we respond:

Here we are, Loving God. Use us in your world. Amen.

HYMN: "God of the Sparrow"

#22

CHARGE

Emerging from the waters of baptism, Jesus became the first citizen of God's new realm.

We, who are baptized into Christ, now live under God's rule.

In this season of Lent, practice the way of life to which we have been called—

the way of Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

God of the Sparrow

1. God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise
2. God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe, How does the creature cry Save
3. God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks
4. God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care, How does the creature say life
5. God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love, How does the creature say Peace
6. God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.
4. Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.