



# **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  
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

**October 9, 2022**

**10:30 am**

**PRELUDE   *Simple Gifts***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has sent redemption to us and made with us a covenant. Holy and awesome is God's name.

**Praise the Lord!**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

God of our salvation,  
you are the source of wisdom and joy.  
Your love and mercies are not limited  
to one time or to one people.  
You continue to heal and to save,  
transcending the artificial boundaries and barriers we set.  
For such expansive love,  
it is our right, duty, and joy  
to offer you all our thanks and praise,  
now and forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN:     *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending #716***

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Since Jesus Christ was a descendant of David,  
Christ shared our humanity. He understands our struggles to  
be faithful. Yet even when we are faithless, Christ remains faithful.  
Jesus came not to condemn or exclude, but to make us well,  
to make us whole. In his name we confess our sins and call out,  
"Lord, have mercy on us!"

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy and grace,  
We are meant to praise you and give thanks  
to you always. We confess that we do not live out of  
constant gratitude. We harbor resentment for what we lack.  
We blame you; we blame others. We doubt your compassion,  
even your power. We find it hard to give ourselves away to you,  
or to others, in generous expressions of gratitude and praise.  
Forgive us, we pray, for attitudes and behaviors that diminish in us  
joyful thanksgiving. Heal and restore us so that we may return to you  
with a right spirit. Help us to live holy and joyful lives,  
befitting people you love and save. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

In the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and we have been raised with him to new life. Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Christ we are forgiven and set free to live in praise and thanksgiving!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Sovereign God,

though we are bound by many tethers, your Word is not chained.

Set us free by this Word let loose in the world.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us worthy of your approval:

workers of the gospel, unashamed and unafraid to share the truth made known to us. In Christ Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

<sup>1</sup>This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup>Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup>Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

<sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup>Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

**SERMON: “Keeping the Faith in a Strange Time”**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

## **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the**

dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Like the shepherds in Bethlehem's field, like the leper healed who returned to Jesus, like the Jews and Gentiles of the early church, we praise and glorify your name, O God. You have given us more than we could have imagined! For tidings of joy, for wholeness received, for the gift of belonging, we thank you. Make of us, as well as these gifts, offerings of good news to the poor, hope to the hopeless, and signs of your power to reconcile and redeem. We ask all things in the name of Christ. Amen.

### **SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: *We Are Standing on Holy Ground #406***

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we sing your glory forever:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of wondrous acts.**

**All creation rejoices in you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who remains faithful to you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

...we sing that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, his faith making us well;**

**Christ was raised, that we might live with him;**

**Christ will come again, to present us before God.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN:**     *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* #834

## **CHARGE**

Practice the faith by practicing gratitude to God every day,  
in all circumstances; for God is bringing us from death to life.

## **BENEDICTION**

May God keep watch over us and all nations; may Christ restore us, body and soul;  
and may the Holy Spirit help us to remain faithful, giving thanks to God our whole life long.

**We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee for sharing her gifts with us today.**

## **Hymns**

### **"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" #716**

1 God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are our for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

### **“We Are Standing on Holy Ground” #406**

1 We are standing on holy ground, and I know there are angels all around;  
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

### **“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #834**

1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light; take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2 When my way grows drear precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall, take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home