



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 of Easter

CCLI License # 2839486

April 30, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

In the lap of a parent, God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.

The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are lead to that peaceful place of God's heart.

GATHERING PRAYER

God, your loving voice calls us.

With our names spoken so tenderly,
we follow joyfully.

Jesus, when we lose our way,

you don't give up until

you have us securely in your arms.

Holy Spirit, help us express

our soul's deep desire

to meet you in worship today. **Amen.**

***HYMN: "The Lord's My Shepherd" #801**

CRIMOND

CALL TO CONFESSION

Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us.

Forgive us, our Goodness and Mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Taking Care of Each Other

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "My Lord, What a Morning!"

Spiritual

GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10

¹Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

SERMON: "Tending Sheep"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #187

BRADBURY

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" #240 (chorus only)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we offer our gifts this day, may we join Mercy and Goodness in being in the lives of all who long for rest, who hunger for hope, who thirst for living waters, and who ache to be part of your community of grace and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining" #192**

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

CHARGE

Day by day, God will lead us:

to those pools of peace where we can gather with our friends and strangers.

Day by day, Jesus will call us:

to give ourselves in service, to anoint others with hope.

Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

the people we might be, the community we might become.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Portions of the liturgy (c) Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140** or the church office at **716-692-1319**.

- Prayers for the family of Craig Erisman who passed away on April 9th.
- Prayers for Greg, friend of Laura Marohn's brother, who had heart surgery.
- Sophie Auer, Tom & Leslie's granddaughter is recovering well from her surgery.
- Prayers for healing for Bob Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Shirley Hagle's sister's great, great granddaughter in Texas who was born one week ago with breathing problems.
- Prayers for healing for Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for the congregation of Marilee's brother and sister-in-law's church (Marion Aldersgate Church in Illinois), currently in discernment for a way forward.
- Prayers for Derick Blake and his children for healing.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 30

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)
12:00pm	Advanced Handbells (Music Room)
2:00pm	Welch Baby Shower (Parlor)

Monday, May 1

10:00 am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm	Bible Study – all are welcome

Tuesday, May 2

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
1:00pm	Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, May 3

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
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Thursday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 6

10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
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Sunday, May 7

9:30 am	Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)
10:30 am	Worship for all ages (Sanctuary) - Communion
11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)
11:30am	Christian Education Mtg
12:00pm	Beginner Bells (Music Room)

