



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

Palm Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

April 13, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks!

God's love is constant and devoted to us.

Let us say over and over:

God's hope is unfailing in caring for us.

Give thanks, O give thanks!

Justice is the gate God opens to all.

Let us say over and over:

God hears the cries of those who are forgotten.

Give thanks, O give thanks, people of God!

God comes to bring us new life.

Let us say this over and over:

**God takes the stone tossed aside by us
to build the foundation of salvation.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious God, as we enter this Holy Week, strengthen us to move beyond the festive parade of palms and to follow Jesus into the way of the cross, that united with him and all the faithful, we may one day enter through the gates of righteousness into the eternal city, the New Jerusalem, where we may praise you with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

First Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40 Entrance into the final days

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

***HYMN: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" #197**

ELLACOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Wearied by our poor choices, worn down by our foolish words, we struggle to be faithful followers of Jesus. Yet, it is precisely in such moments that God comes, with that love which never gives up, that grace which is always offered freely to us. So, let us come with our prayers, to the gate of God's heart, so we may enter forgiveness and life anew. Let us pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are so busy thinking about ourselves, God of constant love, that we cannot begin to ponder what was in Jesus' mind. We shout for joy on a day like this, smiling as we wave our palms, yet quickly toss them aside as we go out into the world. We harden our faces, not in discipleship, but to turn away those who come looking for help from us.

Yet, because he was fully human like us, God of unfailing compassion, we too can be more like Jesus. So, as we begin our journey through Holy Week and beyond, may we choose humility over pride, weakness over strength, compassion over bully, and seek to do whatever we are called to do, without any promise of reward. We pray this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless those around us.

God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness, and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come. Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord Have Mercy" #579

KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, quiet within us all mortal voices, that through the story of the passion and by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" - Choir

John Bacchus Dykes

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Faces of Easter VI: Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine

Responsive Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 The Passover praise psalm

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;

the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the Lord's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God; I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:17-29

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.
²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?”

²³He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

He replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

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

SERMON: “Jesus: Bread and Cup”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare” #202

O WALY WALY

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

God has given us his only Child, Jesus Christ, as the way of our salvation. Let us then give generously, as God has given to us.

THE OFFERTORY: “Take Me To the Cross” - Hearts4Worship

Stan Pethel (ASCAP)

DOXOLOGY: “Holy, Holy, Holy” #595

ARGENTINE SANTO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We are pretty sure we have nothing to offer to others, but when we begin to think like Jesus, we see the blessings we have, those who need your grace, your hope, your love in their lives, and join in bringing need and grace together. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” #523

BICENTENNIAL

CHARGE

Now we will set aside our palm branches,
to go and serve at God’s side in a broken and fearful world.
Now we will pick up our cloaks and follow Jesus wherever he leads,

to learn from those the world ignores, to be touched by the grace within them.

Now we will sing songs of wonder,

as we work alongside the Spirit, sustaining the weary with peace and hope.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Linda Barry

Greeter(s): Bonnie Zimmer

Coffee Hour:

Volunteers Next Week 4/20/25

Liturgist: Sue Schurr

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Diane Charsley

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca & Ina Charsley

Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias

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, April 13

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, April 14

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

6:00pm Church Stretch

7:00pm CE Team

Tuesday, April 15

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

1:00pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, April 16

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

5:30pm Maundy Thursday Supper Church

Saturday, April 19

9:00am Deacons assemble baskets for shutins

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

9:00am Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

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

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

