



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

CCLI License # 2839486

February 5, 2023

10:30am

PRELUDE "Together We Serve"

David Charles Damon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Called to be light,

we would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

Called to be salt,

we would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.

Called to live in God's reality,

we would welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness. Help us receive your commandments as grace and live as your obedient children that your goodness may shine through us, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #377

HOUSTON

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is what God hopes for us - that we will speak of the mistakes we make, so we might be forgiven. Relying on the Spirit for the right words, let us pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is true we break your commandments, God of our lives. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us.

Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders so we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is Kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God will show us the way to God's realm. Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

God rebuilds our lives, repairs our mistakes, fills our emptiness with hope and joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit, that as the Word is proclaimed we may receive holy wisdom to understand the gifts you have bestowed on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}"Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. ^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Souper Bowl of Caring Skit: Youth

Psalm 112:1-9

¹Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶For the righteous will never be moved;

they will be remembered forever.

⁷They are not afraid of evil tidings;

their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

⁸Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

⁹They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "By the Stream"

Christopher Grundy

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

SERMON: "Let Your Light Shine"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" #753

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Like a spring whose waters never fail, God calls us to share what we have received. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #144 (vs 4)

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the gifts we offer, Loving God, be used to fix breakfast for hungry children, to shower others with grace, and to patch the potholes poverty has created in the roadways of the kingdom. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of the Table be with you.

And also with you.

This is the fast God chooses for us as we come to the Feast,
that we empty our hearts in service, so they may be filled again.

This is the way God offers to us,

We will sing our praises as we journey to the realm of hope and love.

When you came proclaiming creation... we lift our voices in glad shouts of joy:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shows the way.

Creation joins in praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who knows your mind.

Hosanna in the highest!

He came proclaiming your salvation...

As we seek to seem him in our midst...we trust in that faith which is mysterious:

Christ died, showing us the way to death;

Christ was raised, showing us the way to new life;

Christ will come, to show us the way to your heart.

Here at the Table of grace... God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine"

This Little Light of Mine 762

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (civil rights song) Irregular

Swing: ♩ = ♪ 3/4

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Additional stanzas:

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Jesus gave it to me . . .
Shine, shine, shine . . .

Lyrics: African American traditional (USA), ca. 20th c.
Music: African American traditional, ca. 20th c.

CHARGE

To those huddled in the shadows of fear and worry,

God sends us to be light.

To those whose lives and hopes have lost all flavor,

Jesus sends us to be salt.

To a society where love is tossed aside as easily as a food wrapper,

Spirit sends us to be faithful carers of everyone we meet.

BENEDICTION

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Janet Haacker at 716-694-4290 or Pastor Rebecca at 716-315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

- Prayers for healing for Bob and Diane Eshelman.
- Prayers for the family of Miss Simon who passed away recently.
- Prayers for Gilbert Laub's brother who suffered a stroke and is at Buffalo General Hospital.
- Prayers for healing for Rick who is in Neuro-ICU; he is a friend of Betsy's co-worker, Carly.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing in the loss of his significant other.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 5

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| 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) |
| 11:50 am | Handbell Choir Practice (Music room) |

Monday, Feb 6

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| 10:00 am | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement) |
| 6:00 pm | Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall) |

Tuesday, Feb 7

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| 9:00am – 2:00pm | Office Hours |
| 1:00pm | Deacons Meeting (Parlor Dining Room) |
| 7:00pm | Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (Circle II Basement) |

Wednesday, Feb 8

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| 9:00am – 2:00pm | Office Hours |
| 6:00pm | Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall) |

Thursday, Feb 9

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| 9:00am – 2:00pm | Office Hours |
| 10:00am | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement) |
| 6:00pm | Hearts4Worship (Parlor) |
| 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal (Parlor) |
| 6:00pm | Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall) |

Saturday, Feb 11

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| 10:00am | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement) |
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"You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden."
Matthew 5:14

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