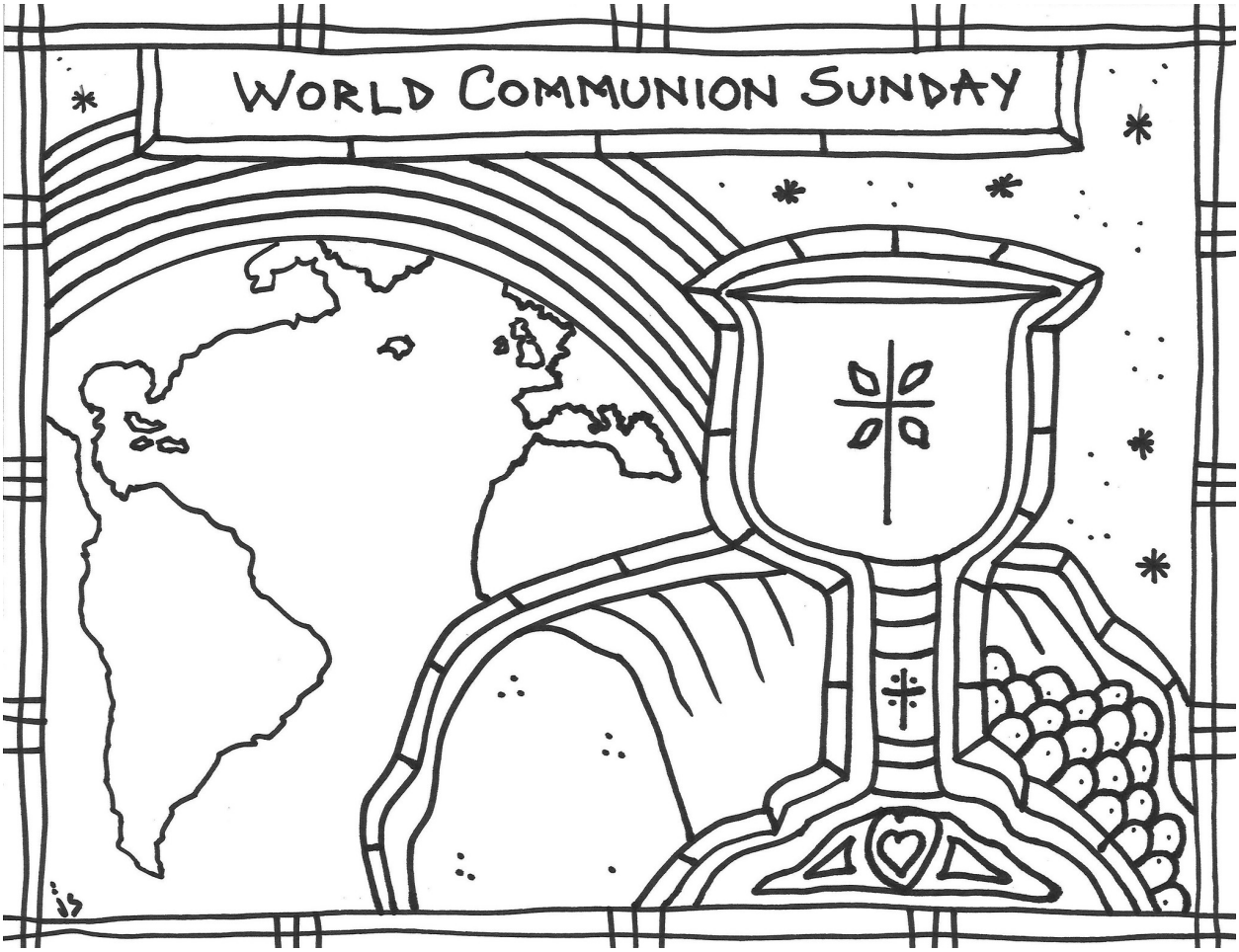


First Presbyterian Church

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 1, 2023 **10:30am**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT **"More Like You" - Hearts4Worship** **Scott Wesley Brown**

CALL TO WORSHIP
Becoming a baby,
Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.
Telling us stories we had forgotten,
God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.
Becoming foolish in the world's eyes**,**
the Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

GATHERING PRAYER
Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN: "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" #453** **YISRAEL V'ORAITA**

CALL TO CONFESSION
All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better, and then just go on living the same way we always have. Let this be the moment when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness, so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope. Join me as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid with judgment.
Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.
Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, you are made new.
We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" #591 **HALLE, HALLE**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
O God, fill us with your Spirit and humble our hearts so that we can hear your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7
1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as
the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people

quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' [3] But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' [4] So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' [5] The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. [6] I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. [7] He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

[1] Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
[2] **I will open my mouth in a parable;**
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
[3] things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
[4] **We will not hide them from their children;**
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
[12] In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
[13] **He divided the sea and let them pass through it,**
and made the waters stand like a heap.
[14] In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all night long with a fiery light.
[15] **He split rocks open in the wilderness,**
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
[16] He made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32

[23] When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' [24] Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. [25] Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" [26] But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' [27] So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

[28] 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." [29] He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. [30] The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. [31] Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32] For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON: "The Importance of Telling Stories" **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

SERMON HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" #462 **HANKEY**

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
The works of the Lord are wondrous indeed. Let us offer back to God a portion of what has been given to us, for the glory of God's name.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "All Praise to the Father" #300 (last verse) **THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
May the simple gifts we offer this day become a fountain of blessings for others, bringing them hope, healing, joy, and peace. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE (Please be seated.)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
May the God who comes in humility be with you!
And also with you!
Beloved, lift your hardened hearts to God.
We offer them to the One who will split them open
so grace can flow into the world.
Children of God, sing to the One who turned the world upside down.
We open our mouths, praising God who shows us the way.

Streams of water flowed forth …we lift our voices in wonder to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Transforming God.
All creation flows toward your heart.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who stands with those who have nothing.
Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of Imagination, … that mystery we call faith:

Christ emptied himself on the cross, that we might be filled with life;
Christ was called forth from the tomb, that we might confess him the Risen One;
Christ will come again, calling us by name, that God's joy be made complete.

Pour out your Spirit, … God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

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: "May the God of Hope Go With Us" #765 (sing twice)** **ARGENTINA**

CHARGE
Go forth to share God's love with all.
We will become a river of love through the world.
Go forth to share Christ's grace.
We will be a fountain flowing in the barren places.
Go forth to share the community of the Spirit.
We will become a pool of peace where all may be refreshed.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week 10/1:
Greeters: Laura & Alvin Marohn &
Nathan & Adam Harrington
Liturgist: Diane Charsley
Usher: Billy Welch
Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Communion: Laura Marohn, Linda Barry
& Nancy Rolando

Volunteers Next Week 10/8:
Greeters: Pat Loeswick, Andrea, Ryan &
Renée Tasevski
Liturgist: Nancy Rolando
Usher: Linda Barry
Coffee Hour: Sue & Janet Schurr & Bonnie Sibley
Tech: Betsy Crocker

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, Oct 1

9:30am	Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am	Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am	Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Oct 2

10:00 am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, Oct 3

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours

Wednesday, Oct 4

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours

Thursday, Oct 5

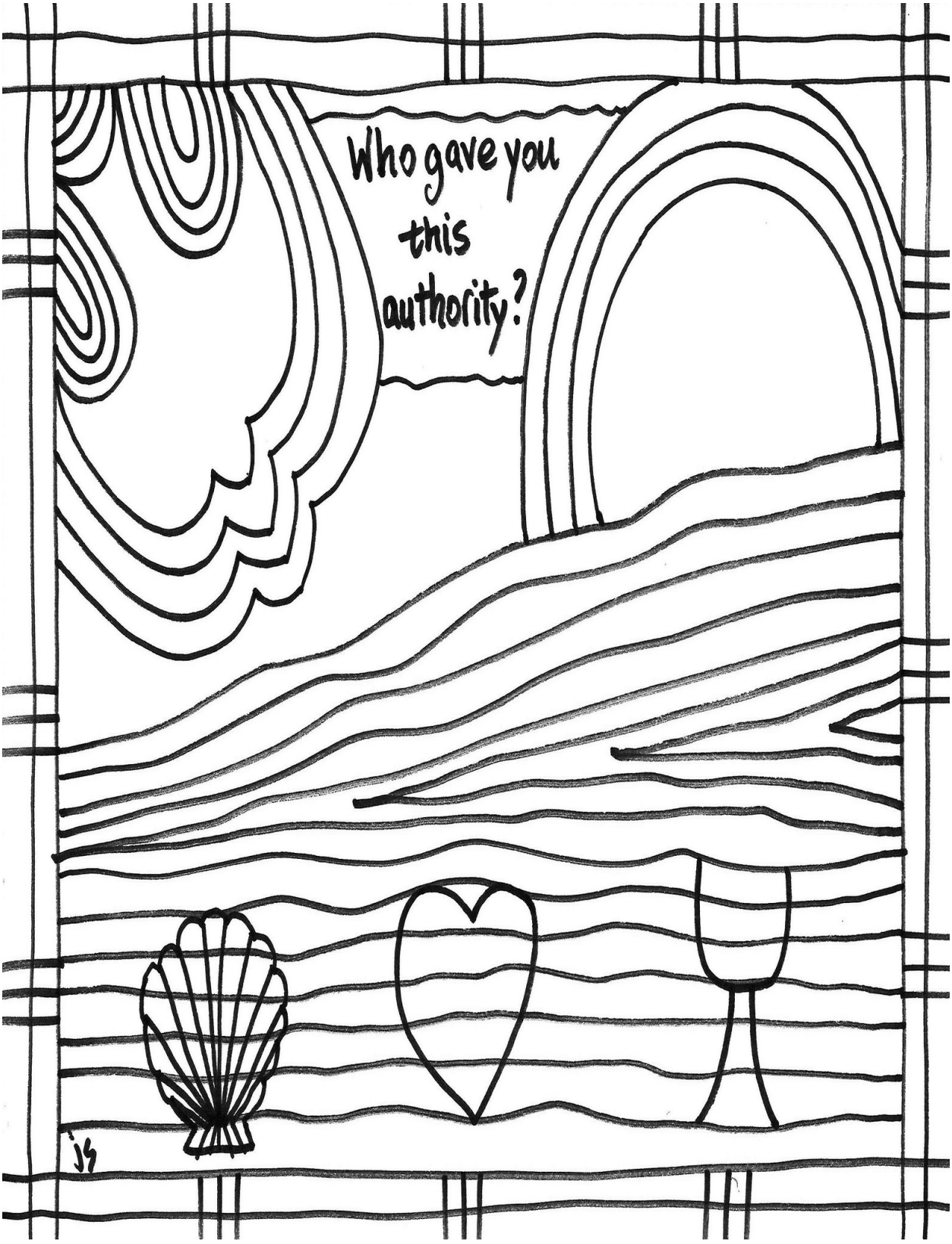
9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, Oct 7

10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Oct 8

9:30	Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am	Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am	Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



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