



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 in Lent

CCLI License # 2839486

March 30, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.

Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new, **and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!**

GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" #166**

ST. FLAVIAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know our faults—the way we have treated others, our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people. We will not hide our sin or remain silent, but confess them to the One who surrounds us with steadfast love. Please join me as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call "outsiders." We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God rolls away everything that stands in our way—our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord Have Mercy" #579

KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 5:9-12 Israel eats bread and grain

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Faces of Easter IV: Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience

Responsive Psalm: 32 Mercy embraces us

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silent,
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON: “Jesus: Tempted in the Desert”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “Down Galilee's Slow Roadways” #164

WEST MAIN

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

As people of the New Creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “Holy, Holy, Holy” #595

ARGENTINE SANTO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May we not be like the older brother, grumbling and resentful of your generosity. Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our gifts that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “When We Are Tested” #783

ANGELS OF HEALING

CHARGE

God sends us forth,

to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.

Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.

**We will embrace the prodigals with joy,
we will make a feast for all of God’s people.**

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

We will go to bring hope to all we meet.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Leslie Dugan
 Greeter(s): Laura & Alvin Marohn
 Coffee Hour: Terry DeLuca & Diane Charsley

Volunteers Next Week 4/6/25

Liturgist:
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s):
 Greeter(s):
 Coffee Hour:
 Communion: Linda Barry, Laura Marohn

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, March 30

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, Mar 31

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 5:30pm Church Stretch
 6:30pm-9:30pm Godly Play Core Training

Tuesday, April 1

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, April 2

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 12:00pm UFO(Parlor)

Thursday, April 3

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, April 5

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, April 6

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,...



...whose sins are covered. Psalm 32v1

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