

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
3RD Sunday after Epiphany
CCLI License # 2839486

January 22, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

We will not play hide and seek, but will make a pilgrimage to God's heart.

Lay down all which is a burden to you!

We will give our fears to God, who is our help in every moment.

Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

We long to live in God's presence every day of our lives.

GATHERING PRAYER

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men. Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" #314 CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT**

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we come to God with open hearts and honest words, we will not be pushed away, but wrapped in God's loving and forgiving embrace. I invite you to join me as we confess our lives to God, praying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We admit, God our Light, that we do indeed try to tear Christ apart - a piece of him here to support our politics, a part of him to undergird our economic views, the rest of him to bolster our fears of others. We could leave immediately to follow him, but need to wait until we see where he might lead us. We want you to look upon us with favor always, but have no trouble turning our backs on those around us.

Hear us, God our Deliverer, as we speak of our failures! Have mercy on us, we appeal to you, have mercy! May your love become the core of our hearts, may your compassion become the words we speak, may your hope illuminate the ways in which we serve others, even as we seek to follow the One who calls us to new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God is our help, so why should we be afraid?

God keeps us safe, there is nothing to dread!

This is good news for all of us.

Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy and love, we raise shouts of joy: thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: **The Lord is My Light**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, **to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent: he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸"**Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

SERMON: "Following the Light"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" #721

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Fellowship - Coffee and Meals

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God, the source of all good things, has given us what we need. In joyful response, let us offer our gifts, the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in the name of Christ.

THE OFFERTORY "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

GENEVAN

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


CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Use our gifts, Loving God, so others might not be scared by life; so they may be sheltered in the blanket of your grace; so they might find a home with us as their family. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus



1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low

2. The world behind me, the cross before me ...
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow ...

Je - sus — no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

WORDS: Anon.
MUSIC: Anon.

ASSAM
10.10.10.8

CHARGE

Let us take God's light into the world.

We will go to join others in pilgrimage of trust.

Let us go to gather the burdens of others.

**We will take away their fears and offer them to Jesus,
who helps everyone in every moment.**

Let us go to live in the Spirit's presence.

**We will follow the Spirit into the peace
which is offered to all of God's people.**

BENEDICTION

PRELUDE

Portions of the liturgy provided by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word