



First Presbyterian Church

**149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Leslie Latham**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
25th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 25)
Know Your Gifts**

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

November 14, 2021

10:30am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is here among us. How will we welcome him?

We will sweep the floors and put flowers on the tables.

Jesus is here among us. How will we welcome him?

We will set aside our distractions, sit and breathe deeply.

Together let us receive the good news that Jesus is here!

Let us laugh and sing, rest and listen; our hearts are ready.

Let us delight in his presence.

Let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Grant us this day, O God, not to be overtaken by anxious thoughts that can make us feel that you are not near. Give us the chance to sit at your feet, to enjoy every word, and every musical note, that we may feel your real presence and in turn live out that presence within our families, our communities, our jobs, and our schools. Prepare us as we journey as your people, to worship and to obey. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the image of the invisible God, and the firstborn over all creation. Amen.

HYMN: #324 *For All the Faithful Women*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the grace of God, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist: Sometimes, O God, we behave like Martha. We get distracted in our routines, so busy with our daily chores that we forget to take the time to stop and breathe, to look up and to notice the creation you have given and the way it speaks about your love and passion for your people. We do not take time to listen for your words, while reading the Bible, while listening to music, while talking to friends, and we become worried and upset about many things.

Pastor: *Sometimes, O God, we behave like Mary. We devote our time to looking up, thinking that everything we are commanded to do is to love God, and we forget to serve our neighbor, and to commit our time to the concrete work of the church, forgetting to get our hands dirty.*

ALL: God of balance, help us: forgive us when we do not know when to be workers and when to be hearers. In your mercy, heal our worries and our judgments, so that we can, indeed, keep the best part. In the name of our loving Master. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

#448 "Peace of God Be with You"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Amos 8:1-12

Luke 10:38-42

SERMON

"Better Choices"

The Rev. Micah Nutter Dowling

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we give today in thankfulness and with the assurance that anything we give will contribute to the continuing growth of your kingdom in the world. Give us wisdom as a church, so that this offering is used for the sharing of your word and the service of your people. In the name of the One that gave us everything we are and have. Amen.

HYMN: #451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

CHARGE

Receive the blessing of God, whose mercy knows no ends.
Receive the blessing of Christ, who is patient and eager to give us words of life.
Receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves us and gives us power to do God's will.
Receive the blessing of the triune God and share this blessing with others!

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“For All the Faithful Women”

1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

2 We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly while
Pharaoh’s vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi’s God till death.

3 We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again. We praise
The other Mary, who hastened to the tomb and found her
Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

4 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

1 Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Scripture Lessons

Amos 8:1-12

¹This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit. ²He said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me,

“The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by.

³The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,”
says the Lord GOD;

“the dead bodies shall be many,
cast out in every place. Be silent!”

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

⁹On that day, says the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰I will turn your feasts into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on all loins,
and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
and the end of it like a bitter day.

¹¹ The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.

¹² They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."