



## **First Presbyterian Church**

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

**Church: (716) 692-1319**

**Rev. Pastor Leslie Latham**

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God**

**April 4, 2021**

**10:00am**

**Easter Sunday**

**We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## INVOCATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Be glad and rejoice forever—

**No one will hurt or destroy on God's holy mountain.**

God is creating a new heaven and a new earth.

**God began with one resurrection.**

God puts an end to death.

**God began with one life.**

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING PRAYER

Radiant God of light and love, you fill our hearts with joy this day by raising Christ to new life.

Receive us as we come to find you even in the places of death. Send us forth shining with

Christ's resurrection in our lives. Amen!

**HYMN:      *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*      #232**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION OF FAITH

**Loving God, we know because of Christ that love is stronger than hatred, forgiveness is stronger than revenge and compassion is stronger than legalism. We know that humility can defeat domination and that obedience can defeat selfish ambition. We are an Easter people, redeemed by the sacrificial gift of love of God through Jesus Christ. We are an Easter people filled with joy and peace in knowing our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are an Easter people, trusting Christ as we journey through life participating in God's sovereign plans that continue to unfold. We are an Easter people filled with hope. AMEN and AMEN.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**HYMN:      *The Strife Is O'er*      (*The Bell Choir*)**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 25:6-9

John 20:1-18

**SERMON:**

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

**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.

**OFFERING  
DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:*

**Holy, holy, holy...**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Surprising God, you invite us to your table and here we meet the risen Christ. Here ordinary bread becomes living bread, and we discover our hearts burning within us. Transform our lives at this table and send us out into your world to share the amazing good news of the One we have met here. Amen.**

**HYMN:      *Christ is Alive*      #246**

**CHARGE**

**BENEDICTION**

## **Hymns**

### ***Jesus Christ is Risen Today***

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

### ***Christ is Alive***

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,  
where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.