



*Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90v2*

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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

21st Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

October 13 , 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

What can we do to have life?

We can seek God, who gives us life in every moment.

What can we do to serve justice in our world?

**We can set aside that which keeps us
from following Jesus – wealth, pride, power, whatever.**

What can we do to share the good news with others?

**We can open ourselves to the Spirit,
so people can see God at work in us.**

GATHERING PRAYER

You alone are holy, O God; you alone are good. Help us to let go of worldly goods and leave lesser things behind so that we may be ready to enter your holy realm on that day when the first are last and the last are first; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” #687**

ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have failed, we have not lived as God’s people. And while we think we should hide, God invites us to come, to confess our lives, and to be restored to wholeness. Let us pray, using these words,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are so many things, Wise God, which keeps us from following Jesus. We try to turn justice into a bitter pill for others. We push righteousness out of the way, so we can seek those who tell lies. We know, deep down inside, that one thing which keeps us from faithful living, but just can’t loosen our grip on it.

We can’t seem to do it, God who remembers us, but because everything is possible with you, give us the wisdom to know what that one thing might be; the grace to let go and leave it behind us; and the courage to follow Jesus wherever he might lead us, especially into that life which you offer in love and hope.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here at the seat of grace, we are forgiven, and can climb up and find the love of God comforting and restoring us to new life.

Every moment, God offers us a serving of love and mercy, so we can continue to live as God intends. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reveal to us your Word, O God, living and active in our world by the power of your Holy Spirit. Let your Word pierce our hearts and open our minds, dividing good from evil, truth from falsehood, life from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Turn from injustice to the poor

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you who turn justice to wormwood and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Responsive Psalm: 90:12-17 Teach us to number our days

¹²So teach us to count our days

that we may gain a wise heart.

¹³Turn, O LORD! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us

and as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶Let your work be manifest to your servants

and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:17-31 Teaching on wealth and reward

¹⁷As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

SERMON: "Justice and Wealth in Community"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "When the Poor Ones" #762

EL CAMINO

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 followers of Jesus, we are called to give ourselves for others, as Jesus has given himself for us. With gratitude for Christ's grace, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Praise to God the Father" #605

DA N'ASE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We think what we offer in these moments is not that much, or can accomplish anything of worth, but with you, Holy God, all things are possible. So we trust you will use them, multiply them, offer them to those who need hope, healing, grace, and peace in their lives. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Will You Come and Follow Me" #726

KELVINGROVE

CHARGE

Let us go with God into the world.

We will share all the wonders God has given us.

Let us go with Jesus to care for others.

We will build justice for all who need it.

Let us go with the Spirit to search for good.

We will speak truth to a world which needs it.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Bonnie Zimmer

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Diane Charsley

Greeter(s): Bonnie Sibley

Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias

Volunteers Next Week 10/20

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Mary Bender

Coffee Hour:

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.

- Prayers for our shut-ins: Linda, Doug, Anne, Shirley, Peggy, Irving, Bonnie, Adehlia, Sarah, Margaret, Lucille, Lynette, Jack, Sue, Marlene, John, Lynn, Joy, and Mary.
- Prayers for the family & friends of Ann Goltz who passed away.
- Prayers for the family & friends of Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for Lynn Hyland's niece, Cassie, who is having serious complications with her pregnancy.
- Prayers for Allan Roth who is dealing with prostate cancer and evaluating options for care.
- Prayers for Pam Lunetta, (teacher at Fletcher School) with cancer.
- Prayers for Roxanne for healing, friend of Nancy Ferro.
- Prayers for Hank, Theresa Rayner's relative who has health concerns.
- Prayers for Alvin Marohn who had surgery.
- Prayers for Sue who is receiving blood transfusions.
- Prayers for Jim Mourgas who has medical concerns.
- Prayers for Linda McMahon who is having complications from cardiac surgery.
- Prayers for Rob Miller who had cardiac surgery.
- Prayers for Bob, friend of Michael Barry, who was injured in a racing accident.
- Prayers for Carol, friend of Jessica.
- Prayers for Panda who has a broken paw, Betsy's dog.
- Prayers for Rachel who is battling cancer, a neighbor of Diane.
- Prayers for Cindy who has serious medical concerns, friend of Jessica.
- Prayers for Doug Crossan who is recovering at home.
- Prayers for Greg who was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers for Bonnie Sibley for healing.
- Prayers for Sue Schurr's friend, Bev for healing.
- Prayers for Sue Schurr's friend, Lori for healing.
- Prayers for Shaylee Klaes who has bone cancer.
- Prayers for the members of St. Francis Church.
- Prayers for Mary Withey for healing; she is a part of our community thru AA.
- Prayers for those struggling in drug addiction and for the family members that try to help them.
- Prayers for Derick Blake and his children.
- Prayers for Bob McMahon, Jane Crossan's brother-in-law for his cancer treatment.
- Prayers for Dana who has cancer.
- Prayers for Janet Bearfield's nephew, Ian Harnden, now recovering at home.
- Prayers for Liam who has Leukemia.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Oct 13

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, Oct 14

10:00 am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm	Church Stretch

Tuesday, Oct 15

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

Wednesday, Oct 16

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
10:00am	Circle 2.1
6:30pm	CCG WNY Book Study: <i>Life After Doom</i>

Thursday, Oct 17

9:00am – 2:00pm	Office Hours
10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm-8:00pm	Choirs Practice

Friday, Oct 18

6:00pm-8:00pm	Friday Friendzee
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Saturday, Oct 19

10:00am	Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
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Sunday, Oct 20

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

