



## **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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

**March 9, 2025**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus began his ministry to the world,  
led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**As we begin our Lenten journey,  
let us be led by the Spirit,  
even into the uncomfortable places.**

In those forty days, and in that place,  
Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

**As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,  
even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,  
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**As we continue on our path to faithfulness,  
we will be led by our Christ,  
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Loving God, you sought out a people and proclaimed them holy. You sent your chosen one, Jesus, to prepare your way. We now gather to worship you with open hands, reaching out in love to offer our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" #140**

**IRBY**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God makes no distinction between us. We are all sinners, we are all children of God, we are all precious to God, and we are all saved by God. Because God is so impartial, let us confess our common humanity to the One who is generous to all.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. Your people, we treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We afflict our anger on those who care about us the most. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.**

**So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. As you hear our faltering words, we pray you would answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As you have confessed, do you so believe? The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God's gracious mercy and hope.

**This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our life. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord Have Mercy" #579**

**KYRIE ELEISON (Orthodox)**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives until you become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Saved from Egypt

<sup>1</sup>"When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

<sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'

<sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

## ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Faces of Easter: The Baby Born in Bethlehem

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16** God shall keep you

<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of the Most High,

**who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,**

<sup>2</sup>will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;

**my God, in whom I trust."**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge,

**the Most High your dwelling place,**

<sup>10</sup>no evil shall befall you,

**no scourge come near your tent.**

<sup>11</sup>For he will command his angels concerning you

**to guard you in all your ways.**

<sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up,

**so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder;

**the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**

<sup>14</sup>Those who love me, I will deliver;

**I will protect those who know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>When they call to me, I will answer them;

**I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.**

<sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy them

**and show them my salvation.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

**SERMON: "Jesus: God Incarnate"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought" #712**

**FOREST GREEN**

**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**

Israel came out of the wilderness and into a land flowing with milk and honey. There they were finally able to offer to God baskets full, in joyful celebration. We, too, bring the first fruits of all that God has so generously given us, with joy and thanksgiving.

**THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: "Holy, Holy, Holy" #595**

**ARGENTINE SANTO**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**From a laptop and a daycare center, from retirement and teaching, from construction work and nursing, from all the places where we derive a living, we offer you our gifts, God of grace, so they might become part of all the fruits of hope and of healing, of peace and patience, which you give to others throughout the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord" #43**

**ON EAGLE'S WINGS**

**CHARGE**

Now let us go from this place of haven  
God has given to us.

**Led by the Spirit, we will go to be with those  
who are filled with fears, with hopes.**

Now let us go from the refuge of the Table  
where we have tasted the first fruits of grace.

**Led by the Spirit, we will go to feed  
those who hunger for companionship and life.**

Now let us go into the world, living out God's reality  
that there is no distinction between people.

**Led by the Spirit, let us go to serve  
our sisters and brothers who are our true family.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Janet Haacker

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer

Greeter(s): Janet Schurr

Coffee Hour: Diane Charsley

### **Volunteers Next Week 3/16/25**

Liturgist: Bonnie Zimmer

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Jessica Schurr & Billy Welch

Greeter(s): Jane Crossan

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.**

## CALENDAR

Sunday, Mar 9

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 10

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

Tuesday, Mar 11

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

Wednesday, Mar 12

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Mar 13

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

Saturday, Mar 15

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Mar 16

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



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.