



## **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**

**Resurrection of the Lord**

CCLI License # 2839486

**April 20, 2025**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day

**angels bring light into our shadows,  
and gardeners harvest good news.**

This is the day the Lord

**awakens us with unexpected grace,  
and the sun breaks out in song.**

This is the day the Lord has made!

**The day when life triumphs over death,  
when love pushes aside fear,  
when hope walks with us in every moment.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for the power of your saving love revealed in the resurrection of our Lord. As you have raised Jesus from the dead give to us the gift of everlasting life, that we may worship you forever; through Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

**Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18** Seeing the risen Christ

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

**\*HYMN: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #232**

**EASTER HYMN**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

On this day, as on every day, we know the ways we have denied God's presence in our lives, with the words, the actions, the harm we offer to others. Yet on this Easter, as on the first, God heals us, God fills us with grace, God calls us by name. Let us bring all we have done, so God might forgive us. Let us pray together, saying,

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We think this story is so old, Imaginative God, that we cannot hear the astonishing news of triumph over death. We are so afraid of our own shadows, that we cannot see the Light of life which is streaming all around us. Convinced that there is nothing beyond these days we call life, we cannot sense your resurrection hope which is calling to us by our names.**

**On this day of new wonders and everlasting grace, God of our lives, may we be glad that you have not forgotten us. May we rejoice in the ancient promises which are proclaimed afresh this morning. May we turn with our questions, our doubts, our hearts towards Jesus, the Gardener of grace, who call us by name and pours resurrection love into us.**

*Silence is kept*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

On this Easter, as on the first; on this day, as on every day; God turns to us, calls us by name, and plants forgiveness and hope in our lives.

**Alleluia! This is the good news!**

**Christ is our peace, the peace we need, the peace which will heal the world.**

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**ANTHEM: "Risen Indeed" - Choir**

**Larry Shackley**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25** New heavens and a new earth

<sup>17</sup>For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup>They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well.

<sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

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

### **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Faces of Easter VII: The One Who Was Easter and Still Is**

**Responsive Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24** On this day God has acted

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever!**

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel say,

**"His steadfast love endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my might;

**he has become my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup>There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

<sup>16</sup>the right hand of the LORD is exalted;

**the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."**

<sup>17</sup>I shall not die,

**but I shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD has punished me severely,

**but he did not give me over to death.**

<sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,

**that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD;

**the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;

**it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**SERMON: "Christ has Died; Christ is Risen"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**ANTHEM: "Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna" - Kelsey Burns**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**

**SERMON HYMN: "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" #231**

**SUO GAN**

## **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**

We belong to Christ Jesus; all things are his, for he is Lord of all. Let us return to the Lord a portion of his blessings to us.

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" #240 (Chorus Only)**

**ALLELUIA NO. 1**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**As we turn to you, God of this morning, may we rejoice in our communities, even as we pray you would use our gifts to bring us healing and new hope. May we delight in those around us, even as we pray you would fill each one with the grace, the peace, the life for which they are longing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" #240**

**ALLELUIA NO. 1**

### **CHARGE**

We could just return to our homes and go back to life,

**but we will go to rebuild neighbors,**

**and share the light we have received.**

We could just stand around and wonder where Jesus has gone,

**but we will turn and, as he calls us by name,**

**follow to bring hope and healing to our world.**

We could just keep quiet and not whisper a word to anyone,

**but we will go to tell others of the good news**

**that Jesus is alive and in our midst.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Sue Schurr  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Diane Charsley  
 Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca & Ina Charsley  
 Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias

**Volunteers Next Week 4/27/25**

Liturgist: Janet Haacker  
 Tech: Betsy Crocker  
 Usher(s): Randy Marohn  
 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, April 20    | Easter Sunday                                                       |
| 9:00am              | Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt                                |
| 10:30 am            | Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)                             |
| 11:30am             | Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)                             |
| Monday, April 21    |                                                                     |
| 10:00 am            | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)                           |
| 6:00pm              | Church Stretch                                                      |
| 7:00pm              | Session                                                             |
| Tuesday, April 22   |                                                                     |
| 9:00am – 2:00pm     | Office Hours                                                        |
| 10:00am-11:30am     | God Loves Me Storytime                                              |
| Wednesday, April 23 |                                                                     |
| 9:00am – 2:00pm     | Office Hours                                                        |
| 7:00pm              | Center for Christian Growth: Coffee & Tech Talk (Zoom or in person) |
| Thursday, April 24  |                                                                     |
| 10:00am             | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)                           |
| 6:00pm-8:00pm       | Choirs Practice                                                     |
| Saturday, April 26  |                                                                     |
| 10:00am             | Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)                           |
| Sunday, April 27    |                                                                     |
| 9:30am              | All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)                                    |
| 10:30 am            | Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)                             |
| 11:30am             | Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)                             |
| 11:30am             | Worship Team Mtg                                                    |

