

## **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**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

CCLI License # 2839486

January 1, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CANDLELIGHTING AND WORDS OF SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8**

- ❖ Where in the past year have you felt the presence of God with you?
- ❖ What habits have you practiced last year to feel close to God?
- ❖ What habit(s) might God be calling you to take up this year?

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We wake up in the morning  
and see the sunrise:

**How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

We are warmed by the sun;  
the rain cleanses all creation:

**How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

We watch the moon light up the night;  
we fall asleep to the lullabies of the stars:

**How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**OPENING HYMN: *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* #112**

*SUSSEX CAROL*

### **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

### **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**God of every moment, we admit that we always find the time to fill our stomachs, but not our souls. We spend hours watching television, but not the wonders of your creation. We arrange outings with our friends, yet ignore your invitation to sit and talk. We make resolutions to change every aspect of our lives, except for that which pertains to you.**

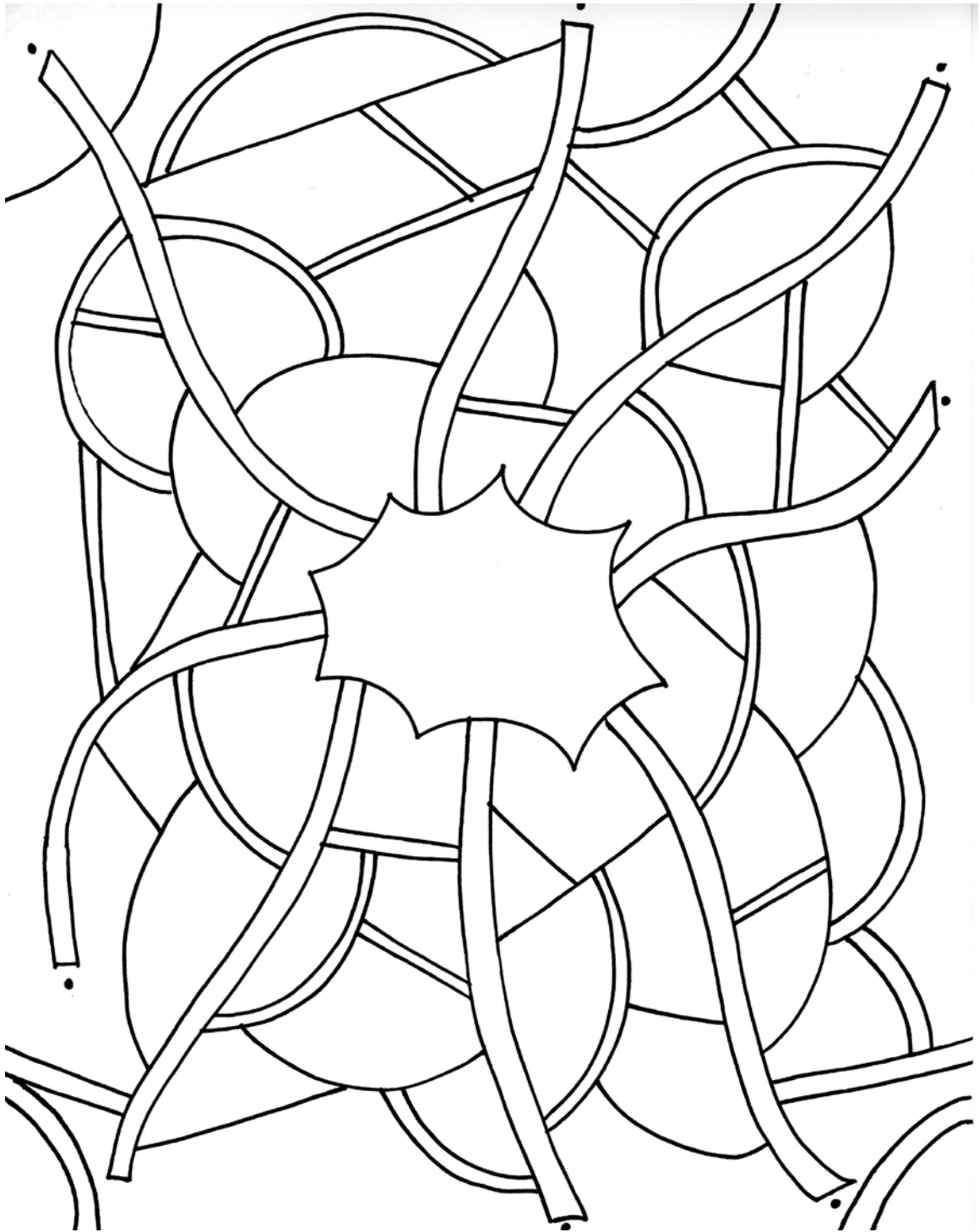
**Forgive us, God of glory, and make us new. In the moments to come this year, remind us that if there is indeed ‘a time for everything’, then we do have those moments to spend in grace, seeking hope, finding joy, and for a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*Silence*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

It's over – last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past. Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

**Here, now, forever – we are forgiven and healed. Let this year be the year we will live as such people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

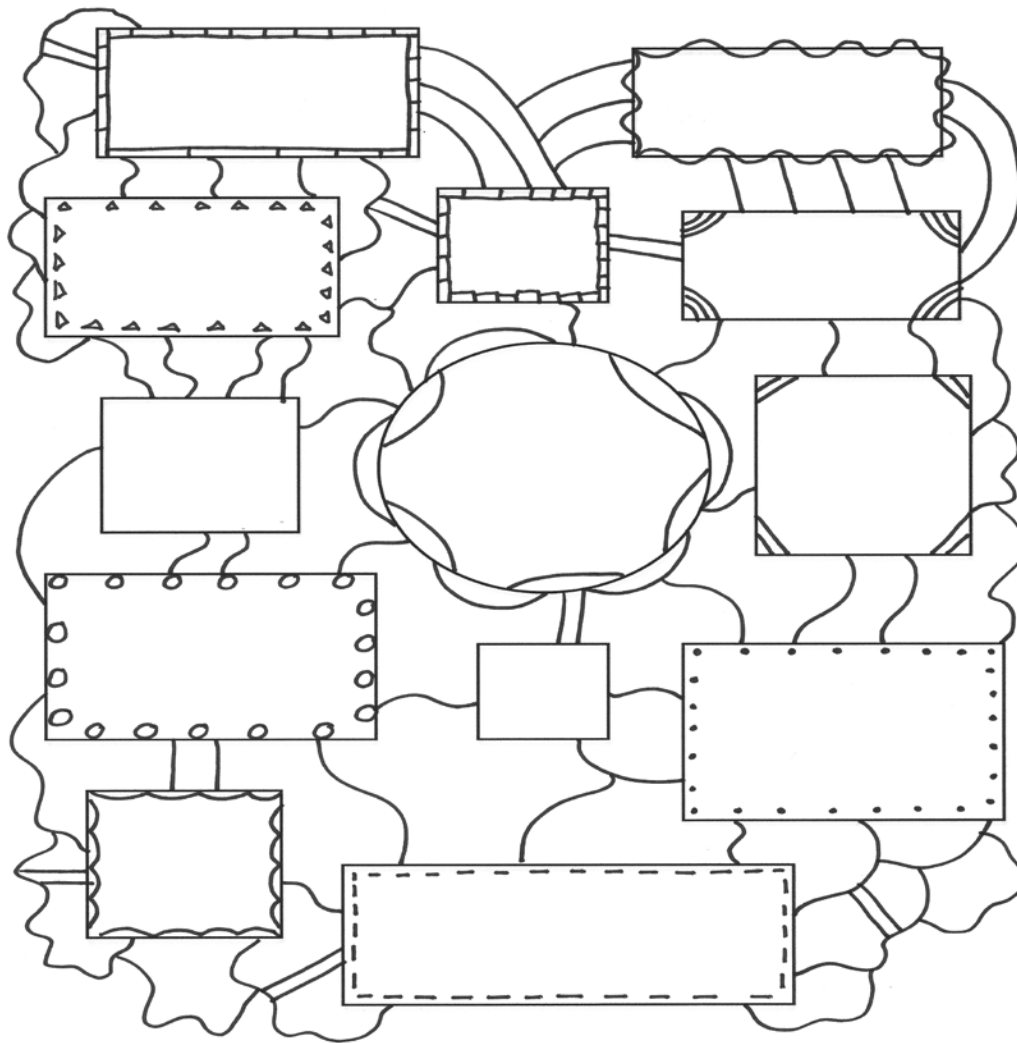


**PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13**

- ❖ How have you changed over the course of the past year?
- ❖ How will this year change you?
- ❖ How will you change yourself?



**SECOND LESSON: Matthew 25:31, 34–40**

- ❖ What do you need?
- ❖ What do you have to give?
- ❖ Who do you know who needs something you can give?

1 Star - Child, earth-Child, go - be-tween of God, love Child,  
 2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child,  
 3 Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child,  
 4 Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more, wise child,  
 5 Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign, down - to -

*Refrain*

Christ Child, heav-en's light-ning rod:  
 used child no one wants to know:  
 lost child, sto - ry told in tears: This year, this year let the day ar-  
 faith child know-ing joy in store:  
 earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

rive when Christ-mas comes for ev - ery-one, ev - ery-one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931- )

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926- )

Words and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

STAR-CHILD  
 4.5.4.5.Ref.

**THIRD LESSON: Revelation 21:1–6a**

- ❖ What do you hope this year will bring?
- ❖ What new thing is God calling you to?
- ❖ What old thing is God calling you to let go of?

**REFLECTION ON ECCLESIASTES**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**PRAYERS (Pastor Rebecca)**

... Hear us as we pray as Jesus teaches us ... (Lord's Prayer)

**OFFERING SENTENCES (Pastor Rebecca)**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**May we not keep our blessings, but give them away: so that others might learn new dance steps, so children might be fed, so bridges might be built and so grace may flow to all in your world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN:           *In the Bleak Midwinter #144***

*CRANHAM*

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

May the God of new beginnings be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the one who makes all things, including us, new.**

Children of God, sing praises to the one who gives new life.

**We praise the one who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.**

... our sisters and brothers on earth, who sing of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy God of every time and space.**

**All creation sings of your majesty and glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who gives us the water of life.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

... we talk of that mystery which is our faith:

**Christ died, so sin would have no more power over us.**

**Christ rose, destroying death's grip on us.**

**When the new heaven and new earth come Christ will make all things, including us, new.**

**COMMUNION IS SHARED**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**CLOSING HYMN:       *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #377***

*HOUSTON*

**SENDING:**

Let us go from this time of silence and song to be God's voice:

**To speak out for the oppressed of our communities and the world.**

Let us go from this time of community to be Jesus' faithful:

**To feed the hungry, to visit the sick, to be a friend to the prisoners.**

Let us go from this sacred space to share the peace of the Spirit:

**To work for reconciliation in our neighborhoods, to put an end to violence and death.**

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee for sharing her gifts with us today.**