



## **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**

**We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Baptism**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

**June 1, 2025**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in this place; some of us empty, some of us broken:

**Yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.**

Among fellow seekers who have shown us the way, we come:

**Trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.**

We gather round the Table of grace,

longing to be fed by the Bread of life:

**That graced, we may serve others.**

**That healed, we may bring hope to the world.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Holy God of every time and every place, you gather us to hear of Jesus. Help us see your infinite life in our own community and in all of creation, we pray in your holy name. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "God Is Here!" #409**

**ABBOT'S LEIGH**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Called to proclaim repentance, we are reluctant to look at our own failings. Invited to witness to God's loving forgiveness of sins, we would rather not speak aloud of our own. Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing, as we pray together, saying:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God Most High, you call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice. We watch our clocks to make sure we spend more time with ourselves than with you. We are hesitant to witness to your power from on high, feeling uncertain of your presence in our lives.**

**Forgive us, God of light. Fill us with the healing presence of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your good news, as we participate in the life and suffering of our world, like your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Choosing to set aside judgement, God gives us justice; choosing to let go of punishment, God fills us with peace; choosing to release anger, God's steadfast love rests upon us.

**Forgiven, redeemed, restored—we tell everyone, through the lives we lead, what God has done for us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

By the power of the Holy Spirit open our minds to the Word, your Son, who comes to us as one of us and ascends to the heavens to remain with us. Amen.

**First Reading: Acts 1:1-11** Jesus sends the apostles

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

<sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

<sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

### **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Parable of the Great Pearl**

**Responsive Psalm 47** God has gone up with a shout

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples;

**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

<sup>2</sup>For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

**a great king over all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

**<sup>4</sup>He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout,

**the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises;

**sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the king of all the earth;

**sing praises with a psalm.**

<sup>8</sup>God is king over the nations;

**God sits on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

**For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53** Christ present in all times and places

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

**SERMON: “The Kingdom of Heaven”**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**BAPTISM: Gabriel Anthony Fotia**

**APOSTLES’ CREED - Please stand - page 17 in the hymnal**

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER (Please be seated)**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**SERMON HYMN: “Baptized in Water” #482**

**BUNESSAN**

**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**

For the gifts of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and for the privilege of offering the fruits of our hands, let us give thanks to God with what we have this day.

**THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” #240 (chorus only)**

**ALLELUIA NO. 1**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, you have given us all we need for life. Guide us to use what we now gather for the well-being of your church, for those in need of shelter and food, for all who suffer for want of your Word, and for nurturing faith in your people. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Ascended Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts to the One who gives us a spirit of wisdom.

**We offer our hearts to Jesus, who opens God’s words to us.**

Clap your hands, God's people! Sing songs of praise to our God!

**We sing praises to the one who blesses and blesses us!**

We do indeed lift loud songs of joy to you.

Awesome God! Everything in heaven and on earth provides all the proof we need of your goodness and mercy... Therefore, with all your people of every time and every place, we sing our glad songs to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory is due to you, God on high, and blessings on your Son, our Lord and Savior,... As we remember his life, his service, his death, his resurrection, his Ascension, we speak of that mystery called faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

We will not stop giving thanks to you, generous and wonderful God, .... Then, when we gather at your feast in glory, seated with our sisters and brothers from all time, we will clap our hands, shouting our joy to you: God in Community, Holy and One, now and for evermore. Amen

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### **Communion of the People**

Come forward to receive the bread and the cup. A server will bring the elements to those unable to come forward, or those requiring Gluten free bread.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**And forget not all God's benefits.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" #547**

**AR HYD Y NOS**

## **CHARGE**

We will not cling tightly to the past:

**But go forth and serve our God.**

We will not spend time looking up to heaven:

**But go and serve Christ's brothers and sisters here on earth.**

We will not hoard our gifts:

**But share the Spirit which dwells in us.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Sue Schurr

Tech:

Usher(s): Jessica Schurr, Billy Welch

Greeter(s): Laura &amp; Alvin Marohn

Coffee Hour: Picnic

Communion: Pat Loeswick, Linda Barry

**Volunteers Next Week 6/8/25**

Liturgist:

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s):

Greeter(s):

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, June 1

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

11:30am Church Picnic

Monday, June 2

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

6:00pm Church Stretch

Tuesday, June 3

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, June 4

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

11:00am Pastor's Study - *The Gift of Wonder* (Parlor)

12:00pm UFO (Parlor)

7:00pm Pastor's Study - *The Gift of Wonder* (Parlor or zoom)

Thursday, June 5

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, June 7

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, June 8

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

