

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 Baptism of Emmett Michael Gatti
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

CCLI License # 2839486

February 12, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE "God is Calling through the Whisper"

W ZLOBIE LEZY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship

You could have stayed in bed, you could be eating breakfast out.

We have chosen to be in this place, feasting on God's words.

You could give a cold shoulder to your neighbors, you could warm yourself in front of the fire.

We have chosen to see God with more than just a sliver of our hearts.

You could be chasing after the world's idols, you could be listening to television's talking heads.

We have chosen to serve the One who blesses us with life.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of blessing, you call us to be one with you and your creation in love, faithfulness, and truth. Help us to carry out the vows we make: to adore you with our whole heart, to live in mutual support of one another, and to love as if your reign has fully come. Amen.

***HYMN: "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" #396**

HOLY MANNA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Following God is not like flipping a coin, and choosing sides. It is intentional; it is difficult; it is risky. That is why we know all the ways we have failed in our discipleship and need to come to God. We choose to confess, so we might embrace the forgiveness God offers to us. Please join me, praying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Invited to walk in your footsteps, Wanderer of the Universe, we turn away to play hopscotch on the sidewalks of seduction. Given the chance to watch you work wonders of grace and renewal, we fixate on the idols of success and power. When you want to tell us stories of healing and reconciliation, we decline to hear your gentle voice.

Have mercy on us, God of Blessings, and help us to choose to hold fast to your hand; to walk your streets of wholeness and hope; to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, into the life you intend for us. Amen.

Silence is kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's forgiveness dwells in our hearts; Christ's love fills us; the Spirit's peace guides our steps. **Our feet are set on the journey. Waling in faith and hope with our God, we will be servants to the world. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day. Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God and to the glory of your realm. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

BAPTISM OF EMMETT MICHAEL GATTI

BAPTISM HYMN: "Baptized in Water" #482

BUNESSAN

Psalm 119:1-8

¹Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

²**Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,**

³who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

⁴**You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.**

⁵O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

⁶**Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

⁷I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸**I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

Matthew 5:21-37

²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the

judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

SERMON:

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" #444

DETROIT

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Jesus said, If you remember that a brother or sister has something against you, first be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift. In peace, let us bring our offerings to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs 4) #144

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us go into the world with God's love,
choosing to share it with everyone we meet.

Let us go into our neighborhoods with Jesus' hope,
choosing to care for all who are in need.

Let us go with our lives full of the Spirit's peace,
choosing to offer it in all the broken places around us.

***CLOSING HYMN: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" #853**

SIYAHAMBA

CHARGE

Let us go into the world with God's love,
choosing to share it with everyone we meet.

Let us go into our neighborhoods with Jesus' hope,
choosing to care for all who are in need.

Let us go with our lives full of the Spirit's peace,
choosing to offer it in all the broken places around us.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact

Pastor Rebecca at 716-315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.

- Prayers for healing for Tom Dugan.
- Prayers for healing for Bob and Diane Eshelman
- Prayers for the family of Miss Simon who passed away recently.
- Prayers for Gilbert Laub's brother, Phillip, who suffered a stroke and is at Buffalo General Hospital.
- Prayers for healing for Rick who is in Neuro-ICU; he is a friend of Betsy's co-worker, Carly.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing in the loss of his significant other.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 12

- 9:30am Pastor and Parents Meeting (Parlor)
- 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)
- 10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)
- 11:50 am Handbell Choir Practice (Music Room)

Monday, Feb 13

- 10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
- 6:00 pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 14

- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, Feb 15

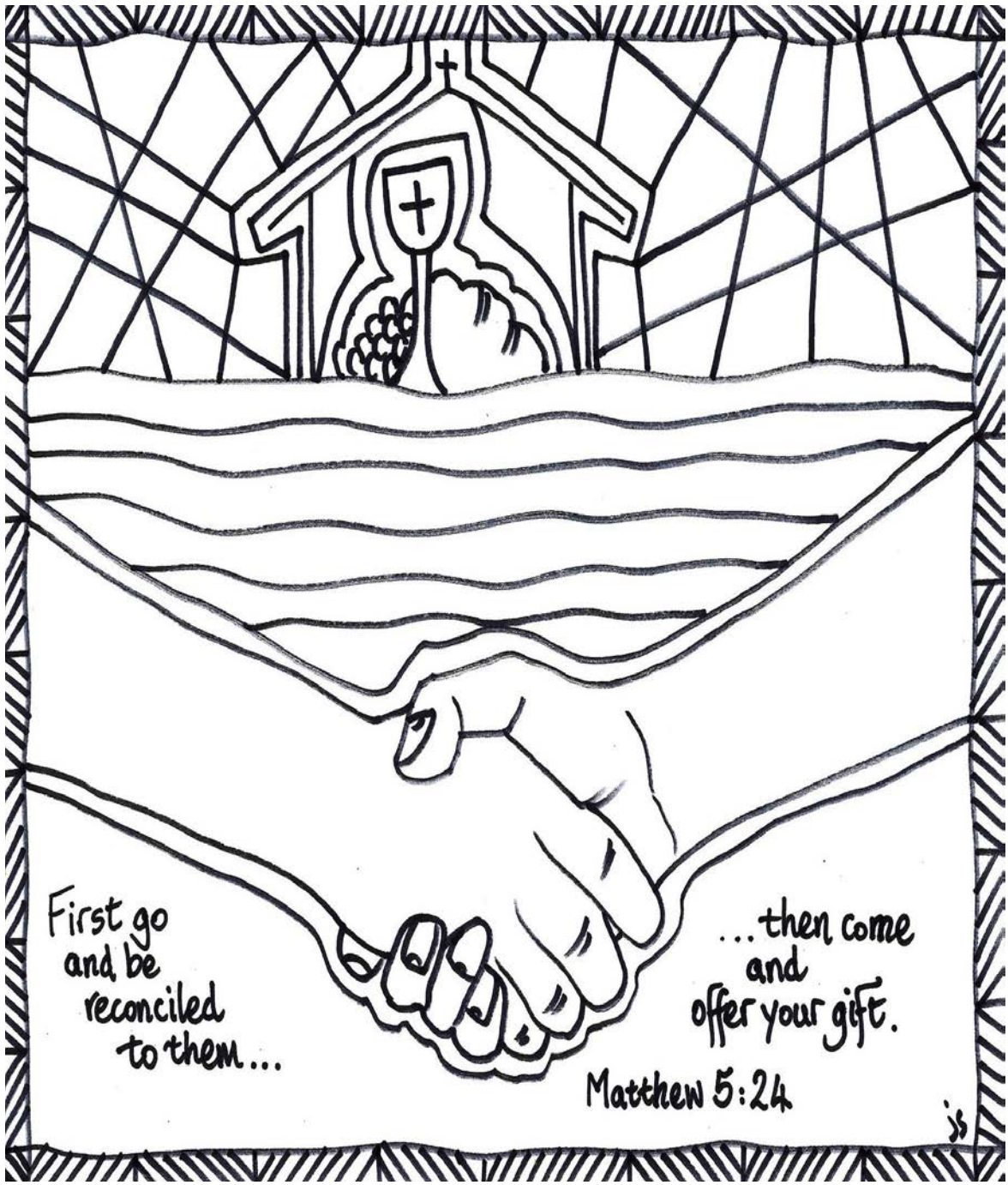
- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- 6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, Feb 16

- 9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
- 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
- 6:00pm Hearts4Worship (Parlor)
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Parlor)
- 6:00pm Raiders of Niagara (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, Feb 18

- 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)



First go
and be
reconciled
to them...

... then come
and
offer your gift.

Matthew 5:24

is