



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
21st Sunday after Pentecost
CCLI License # 2839486**

October 30, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be still!

We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Be still and know . . .

we come to discern the Word that can set us free.

Be still and know that God is . . .

our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

GATHERING PRAYER

MOMENT FOR HERITAGE

HYMN: *The Church's One Foundation #321*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can no longer flatter ourselves about how good we are. We do not need to make grandstand plays to get God's attention. We only need to confess our lives, as God makes good on the promises of grace and mercy. Join me as we ask God to reform us into God's children, praying together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heart of the Covenant: we have known your hopes for us, and disappointed every one of them; we have heard your words of faithfulness, and forgotten every one of them; we have seen your dreams for us, and turned every one of them into ashes. Forgive us, Hope's Heart. Silence every blustering word, so we may hear your mercy; still every feeble attempt to justify ourselves, so we may be made right with you; melt every frozen heart, so we might be drenched in your river of joy. May Jesus Christ continue to live in us, so we might be free to live forever with you.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Be still and know the good news: God has not forsaken nor forgotten us, but redeems us. Why should we be afraid? God is in our midst - forgiving, restoring, sending. Thanks be to God! Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-29

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

HYMN: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?* vs. 1 #727

MOMENT FOR CONNECTIONS

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

HYMN: *We Are One In the Spirit* vs. 1 #300

MOMENT FOR LEADERSHIP

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Will You Come and Follow Me* # 726

Kelsey Burns

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

MOMENT FOR THE FUTURE

CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May our gifts offer faith as well as food, hope as well as housing, joy as well as justice, to those who struggle all around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN: *The Church of Christ in Every Age* #320**

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, and the Holy Spirit keep you, this day and forevermore. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

HYMNS

“The Church’s One Foundation” #321

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder, this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore:
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?” vs. 1 #727

1. Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

“We Are One In the Spirit” vs. 1 #300

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” #320

1. The church of Christ, in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4. For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating Word.