

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

8th Sunday After Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

July 14, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before the earth was formed,
we were chosen by God to be God's people.

**God gathers us together that we might
sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.**

Before the stars glittered in the night sky,
we were chosen through Christ to be God's family.

**Christ gathers us together that we might
carol the good news of redemption.**

Before the rivers flowed to the seas,
we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

**The Spirit gathers us together that we might
dance in the fields of peace with our sisters and brothers.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy Trinity, yours is the justice that calls power to account. Yours is the love that calls sinners to repent. Yours is the mercy that forgives us and grants us eternal life. Lead us in the truth about the Beloved, and set us free to rejoice with all our might over the great mystery you have revealed: that you are bringing all things into harmony through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "God is Here!" #409**

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

We toss and turn at night, unable to sleep because of the tunes running through our heads. But, if we listen carefully, we will discover that it is God singing to us, of that hope, that joy, that mercy offered to us, if we will but open our lives to the forgiveness and healing which is God's desire for us. Let us confess our out-of-tune lives, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would sing praises to you, Composer of our lives, but we remember the harsh words we used toward a friend this week. We would learn your healing hymns of grace, but the broken chords of our anger and pain echo deep within us. We would dance in the circle of your love, but we recall how quickly we turned and ran when offered opportunities to serve your people.

Forgive us, Gifter of every blessing. Open our hearts and fill us with your mercy. Open our ears that we may hear the songs of grace you would teach us to share with the world. Open our eyes that we may see the hope we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our inheritance of love and joy.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Before the earth was shaped, God created the music of grace which sets our hearts, our souls, our feet to dancing with joy in the hope God has given to us.

It is God who has created us, it is God who has redeemed us, and it is God who sends us forth to live as brothers and sisters of Christ. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of the living God, seal in us your Word of truth, the gospel of salvation, so that we can faithfully follow and joyfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Pretending Bible Stories (Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19)

RESPONSIVE PSALM 24

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

the world, and those who live in it;

²for he has founded it on the seas,

and established it on the rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD,

and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the company of those who seek him,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is the King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah

SERMON: “Expressing Worship”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “God of Great and God of Small” #19

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*ecumenical version*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Consider what God has given to us in Jesus Christ; remember that, even now, the Holy Spirit dwells in us; rejoice that we are part of God’s plan for all time. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “With Grateful Joy”

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

With grateful joy for You the Source of all life
We raise one voice to You from whom all blessings flow
You are the Giver of life
You are the Lover of life
The good Sustainer of life,
We live in You

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this company of seekers, we find our inheritance—the deep richness of God’s grace. With this company of seekers, we offer our gifts, so that others might be able to set their hopes on Christ, with whom we are all blessed by God. Amen.

***HYMN: “Lift Up the Gates Eternal” #364**

Israeli folk melody

CHARGE

We are sent by God, to be God’s people in the world.

We will go to sing of God’s joy and hope to all.

We are called by Christ, adopted into God’s gracious family.

We will go to share the good news of Christ’s grace for everyone.

We are chosen by the Spirit to care for and serve creation.

We will go to join hands with our sisters and brothers in every moment.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Leslie Dugan
Coffee Hour: Tom & Leslie Dugan
Greeter(s): Janet Schurr

Volunteers Next Week 7/21:

Liturgist: Scott Chaffee
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Judy Winters
Coffee Hour: Judy Winters
Greeter(s): Diane Charsley

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, July 14

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, July 15

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
7:00pm Session

Tuesday, July 16

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, July 17

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
11:00am Graveside Service – Walter Frech – Elmlawn Cemetery

Thursday, July 18

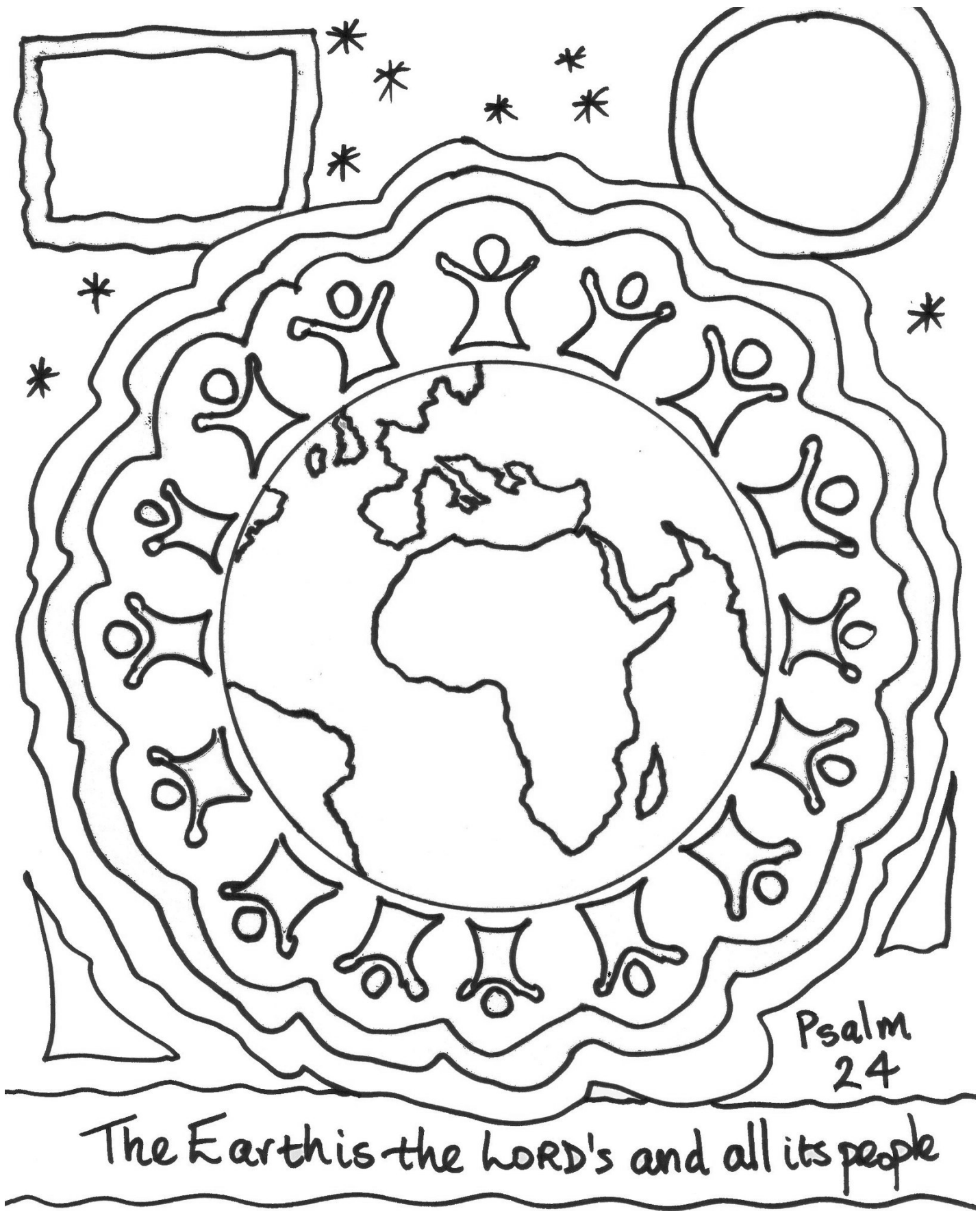
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, July 20

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
10am-4pm Garden Walk

Sunday, July 21

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Psalm
24

The Earth is the LORD's and all its people