

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

4th Sunday After Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

June 16, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

Scott Chaffee, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

All around us, God is looking for folks
who will join in serving others.

**It is as if God is planting seeds of compassion in us,
watching for them to bloom in our lives.**

In our midst, Jesus is walking among us,
tending our hearts, watering us with grace.

**It is as if Jesus is trusting that our souls
will grow big enough to welcome everyone.**

From morning to evening, the Spirit is at work,
gently tending this garden called life.

**It is as if the Spirit has found the perfect spots
to bring forth crops of justice and peace.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God, Sower of seeds, be at work among us, we pray, that your church may thrive in faithfulness. Whether we are the size of a tall cedar or are a small sprig, it does not matter. You are able to put us to good use. Not by our efforts, but by your power and grace we bear fruit, produce boughs of spacious welcome. You can make even a dry tree flourish! Even we can become a new creation! Urge us on, then, in the love of Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "This Is My Father's World" #370**

TERRA BEATA

CALL TO CONFESSION

We long to live as God's people, yet in the very depths of our lives, we know how we have hurt those around us, through words and actions, as well as from indifference. But God hears us when we call, and answers with the grace we need. Let us pray together, as we confess our lives to our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How you must grieve over us, God of all. You give us blessings to share with others, but we hoard everything for ourselves. You look for us to join you in serving the most vulnerable, but find us worshipping the wealthy and powerful. You offer us joy and wonder to embrace, but we continue to cling to weapons and things.

Have mercy on us, Anointing God, as you pour your forgiveness into our foolish lives. Plant the seeds of grace, hope, love, and peace in us, so we may blossom and share all these gifts with everyone we meet. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love is not logical and understandable. For God forgives those we never would, and welcomes those we would continue to ignore.

**This is the One who has mercy on everyone, pouring grace and joy into everyone, including us!
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we walk by faith and not by sight. So guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way in your way. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: The Mustard Seed

RESPONSIVE PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

²to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

³to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

⁴For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree,

and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³They are planted in the house of the LORD;

they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴In old age they still produce fruit;

they are always green and full of sap,

¹⁵showing that the LORD is upright;

he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

SERMON: "Expressing Hope"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #353

SOLID ROCK

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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Installation of Officers

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

PROFESSION

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed: **(Page 17 in the hymnal)**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

Elders

Diane Charsley
Sue Schurr
William Welch IV

Deacons

Betsy Crocker
Bonnie Sibley

Treasurer

Tom Dugan
(One Year Term)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We give thanks in word and song to God, who makes us glad and gives us joy because of all that God has done. We enact our thanksgiving through these tithes and offerings. May God put to good use what we give today.

THE OFFERTORY - Scott Chaffee, organ

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

Let us remember those seeds of love, hope, grace, and peace which we carry in our hearts and souls, as well as our wallets and purses, so that in remembering, we would offer them to our God for use in the work of reconciliation and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "Live into Hope" #772**

TRURO

CHARGE

The God who has reconciled us to one another,
as well as the Holy Community, sends us forth.

**We will go to gather the broken
as we bring healing in our hands.**

Jesus, who has shaped us into new people
with his grace-filled hands, sends us forth.

**We will go to welcome those we have ignored,
drawing the stranger into a warm embrace.**

The Spirit, who teaches us how to look at others
with the eyes of love and hope, sends us forth.

**We will go to become one with those tossed aside,
to be the community of hope for which they have searched.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "God of Our Fathers" - Scott Chaffee, organ

We would like to thank Scott Chaffee for sharing his gifts with us today.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Marilee Mathias
Coffee Hour:
Greeter(s): Janet Schurr

Volunteers Next Week 6/23:

Liturgist: Janet Haacker
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer
Coffee Hour:
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, June 16

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

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

Monday, June 17

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

7:00pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, June 18

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, June 19

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

10:00am Circle 2.1

Thursday, June 20

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

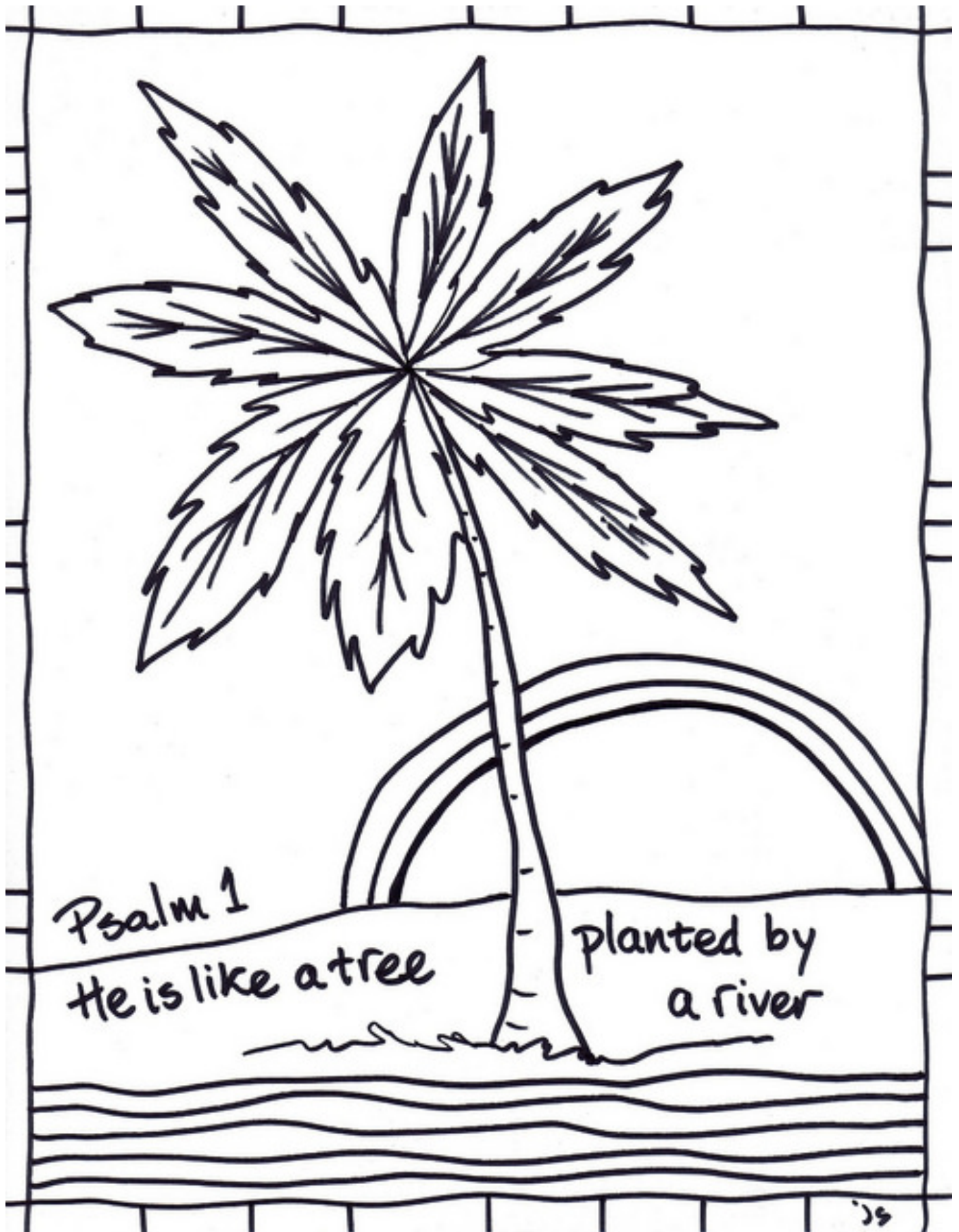
Saturday, June 22

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, June 23

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

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



Psalm 1

He is like a tree

planted by
a river

JS