



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

20th Sunday after Pentecost

CCLI License # 2839486

October 15, 2023

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, with these people,
we come to worship the living God.

In you, O God, we hope;

in you, Creator of love, we live.

Here in this sacred space, in these very moments,
we are invited to the Table of Joy.

In you, Christ of the Way, we rejoice;

in you, dear Brother, grace is as near as your heart.

Here on this day of gentleness and beauty,
we are filled with the peace of God.

In you, O Spirit, we find our path;

in you, Teacher of hope, we learn to serve.

GATHERING PRAYER

Ever-present God, you never leave us. Help us to stay with you when we are tempted to flee, and keep us seeking after that which is true, that all may know that you are the Lord, our God, a tenacious presence in whatever our reality. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #475**

NETTLETON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Called to have the same mind as Christ, we often spend too much time thinking about all those ways which then lead us astray. But, if we confess our sins, God will forgive us, and strengthen us to be Christ's sisters and brothers. Join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You would call us to your feast, Inviting God, but our busy lives keep us from responding. You remember every word we utter, every prayer we whisper, but we forget all the little ways you care for us. You would make your gentleness known through us, but we lash out in anger and fear towards others.

Forgive us, God of all hope, and remember your Servant, Jesus Christ. In him, we can live in your way. Through him, we can learn the dreams you have for us. With him, we can open our arms and embrace all the people we meet.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As we are forgiven by God, we can begin to reflect on all those ways in which we can live justly, act honorably, love completely. This is indeed good news for us.

At the Wedding Feast, we are fed with grace, and nourished with joy, so we may go and bring hope and peace to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" #591

HALLE, HALLE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit of God, shine your light upon this Word and into our hearts that we may be enlightened with fresh understanding. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:1-14

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD."

⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

¹Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?

³Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

⁴Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;

⁵that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

⁶Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity,
have done wickedly.

¹⁹They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.

²⁰They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.

²¹They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

²²wondrous works in the land of Ham,

and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

²³Therefore he said he would destroy them—

had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him,

to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Bell Fanfare” - Bell Choir

David Burton Brown

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'

¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴"For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

SERMON: “I Didn’t See That Coming”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “Love Devine, All Loves Excelling” #366

HYFRYDOL

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

Beloved, do not worry about anything, but in everything let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus. In the assurance of this promise, let us confidently offer ourselves to God knowing that God has already provided all that we need.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "All Praise to the Father" #300

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May not only our gifts, but our lives, be the grace and hope which bring healing to the broken, as well as food and nourishment to all who hunger and thirst for justice and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" #765**

ARGENTINA

CHARGE

Now let us leave this place,
to live and serve those not here,
**to share the hope of God,
to live in love with all creation.**

Now let us leave this place
to offer the gifts of life and grace with all,
**to bring joy to those who mourn,
to offer the heart of Christ to everyone.**

Now let us leave this place
to fill our neighborhoods with peace.
**to walk the Spirit's path with strangers,
to serve all as if they were family.**

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week 10/15:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher: Leslie Dugan
Coffee Hour: Laura & Alvin Marohn
Greeter: Janet Schurr & Bonnie Sibley

Volunteers Next Week 10/22:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher: Randy Marohn & Jane Crossan
Coffee Hour: Linda Barry
Greeter: Donna & Bruce Blinston

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, Oct 15

9:30 Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Oct 16

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

Tuesday, Oct 17

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
1:00pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 18

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Circle 2.1 - The story behind The "Kissing" Sailor

Thursday, Oct 19

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, Oct 21

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Oct 22

9:30 Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

