

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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

1ST Sunday in Advent

CCLI License # 2839486

December 1, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #85 vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,
trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

those for whom this season is not one of joy;

those whose lives are empty of family and friends.

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

***HYMN: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" #347**

PICARDY

CALL TO CONFESSION

If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Responsive Psalm 25:1-10 Your paths are love and faithfulness

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,

and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right

and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:68-79 Song of Zechariah

⁶⁸Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.’
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “Follow the Prophets”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: “Blest Be the God of Israel” #109

MERLE’S TUNE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit’s sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” #675 (vs 4)

TALLIS’ CANON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

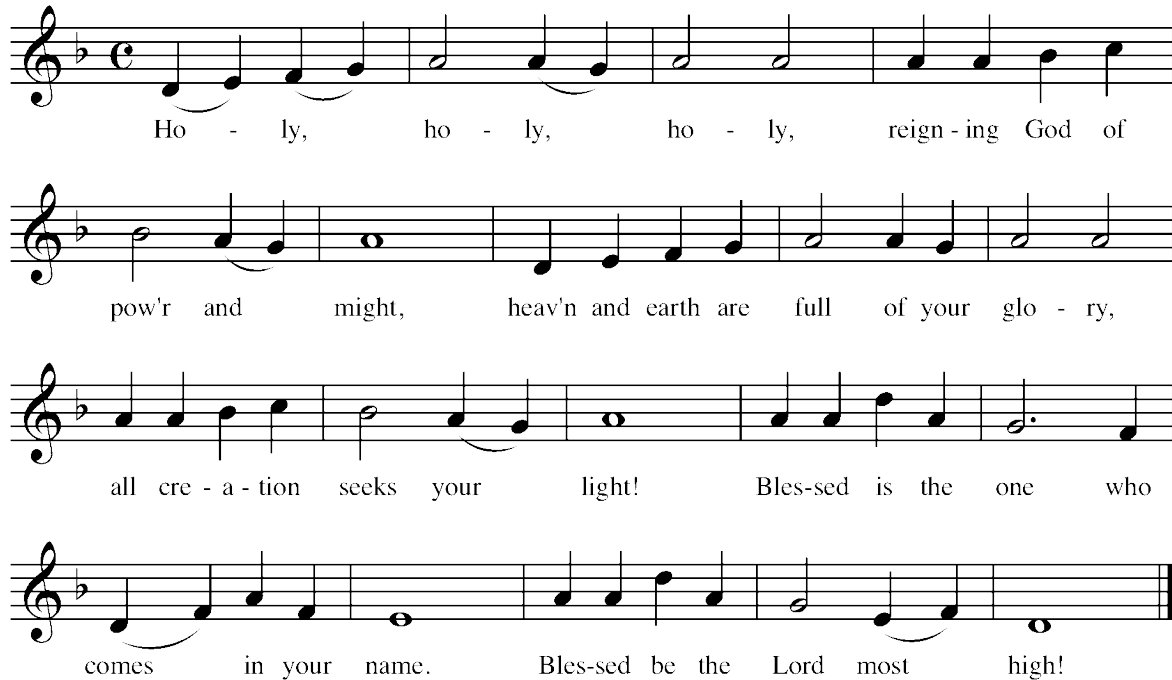
May the God of Advent be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The days of creation came, ... we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

Picardy Sanctus Choral response

SANCTUS

PIC



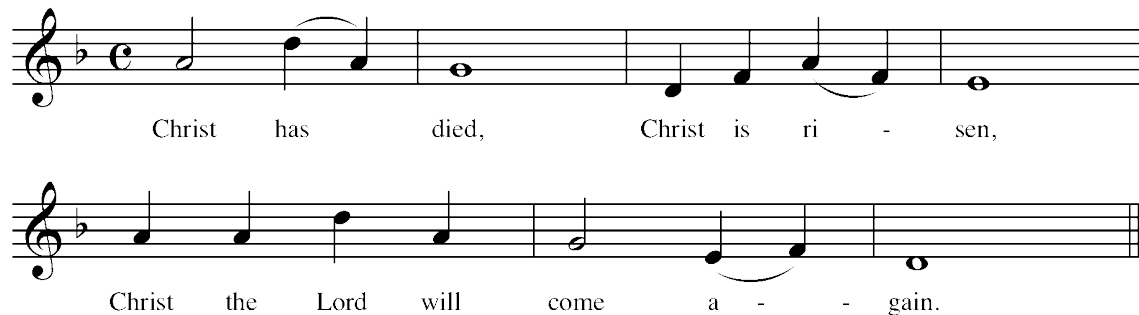
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of
pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who
comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

You are holy, ... we remember that mystery we call faith:

Picardy Memorial Acclamation choral response

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P



Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen,
Christ the Lord will come a - - gain.

Come now to Your children ... Holy in One. **Amen.**

Picardy Amen choral response

GREAT AMEN

PICARDY

A - - - - - men, a - - - - - men.

A - - - - - men, a - - - - - men.

Breaking the Bread

Jesus said: I am the bread of life

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Today, we come forward to receive the bread and the cup. A server will circulate to offer communion to those who remain seated. All of the bread is gluten free.

Communion

The bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The cup of salvation. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

CLOSING HYMN: "While We Are Waiting, Come" #92

WAITING (Cason)

CHARGE

Now may our God prepare us to serve our siblings.

We will devote ourselves to walking with others to Bethlehem.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ steer us into all the places we do not want to go.

We will throw ourselves into the mission of feeding the hungry, into the privilege of learning from the poor.

Now may the Holy Spirit move us to increase in love for others.

We will take up the cause of justice in every corner of our lives, we will help to bring the kingdom of hope near to everyone around us.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Rebecca will be out of the office on Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3 for cataract surgery. For any pastoral needs, please call Diane Charsley or the church office.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Billy Welch, Jessica Schurr
Greeter(s): Janet Schurr
Coffee Hour: Julie Sawicki
Communion: Nancy Rolando, Pat Loeswick

Volunteers Next Week 12/08/24

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Linda Barry
Greeter(s): Lynn Hyland
Coffee Hour: Nancy Rolando

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, Dec 1

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

Monday, Dec 2

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, Dec 3

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Dec 4

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
12:00pm-3:00pm UFO (Unfinished Objects) (Parlor)

Thursday, Dec 5

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Friday, Dec 6

6:00pm-8:00pm Friday Friendzee

Saturday, Dec 7

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Dec 8

9:30am

10:30 am

11:30am

All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)

Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

