



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

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

CCLI License # 2839486

January 19, 2025

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come in these endless days, Precious God,
people in need of the constancy of your love:
may we drink deeply from your fountain of life;
may we continue to be guided by your Light.

We gather in these weary days, Water-changing God,
people looking for signs of hope and wonder:
may we drink deeply from your fountain of grace;
may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.

We worship in these overwhelming days, Gifting God,
people who try to point others to Jesus:
may we drink deeply from your fountain of joy;
may our life be strengthened by your Life.

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, through signs of grace you reveal your glory to all the world. Open our eyes to the hidden and surprising wonders you perform, that we may believe with our minds and trust in our hearts that you alone are Lord of all creation. Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" #462**

HANKEY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ignorance is no excuse, we know how our lives do not reflect God's grace, God's hope, God's justice. But God will not give up on us; God is waiting to forgive us and call us as God's children. Please join me as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Delight of the Ages, we cannot remain silent, but must speak of the ways we misuse your gifts. In our desire to have more and more, we cause more damage to your good creation. In our obsession with ourselves, we have desolated the lives of those around us. When we hoard what you have given us, we cannot be a blessing to other people.

Forgive us, Restless God, so we might be restored to life. May your steadfast love save and strengthen us to share our gifts with others, even as you have shared the Gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God delights in you. So much, that God will not rest until you are at peace. God will not remain silent, but will call you by name: "My Delight."

God's steadfast love extends to the heavens, and reaches down to touch our hearts. Thanks be to God who forgives and saves us! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding that we may receive the testimony of Scripture and believe in the signs that reveal your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5 God like the bridegroom and the bride

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her and your land Married, for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Responsive Psalm: 36:5-10 We feast on the abundance of God's house

⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep;

you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,

and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you

and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it.

⁹When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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

SERMON: "The First Miracle"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "As the Wind Song" #292

WAIRUA TAPU

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

God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life. Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise; for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #144 (vs 4)

CRANHAM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sometimes, we believe the gifts we offer do not matter. But when they are combined with all the other gifts—of healing, of hope, of compassion, of your heart—they can become rivers of grace and justice flowing through the lives of everyone around us. We offer our gifts to you in this hope, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "We Are One in the Spirit" #300

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

CHARGE

God sends us out to the lonely, the forsaken,
all those forgotten in these weary times.

**We will go to gather them up into the heart of love,
to welcome them as our siblings.**

Jesus calls us to throw a party for those
who are hungry for hope, who thirst for justice.

**We will go to be with those who sit at empty tables,
who long to taste the sweet bouquet of grace.**

The Spirit sends us forth,
transformed from the foolish to the faithful.

**We will go to those who walk in the muck of life,
who yearn for new days, of joy and wonder.**

BENEDICTION

**For pastoral care while Pastor Rebecca is out of the office, feel free to send her a text, or reach out to Marilee Mathias, Diane Charsley, or the church office. Her surgery is scheduled for Tuesday morning, January 21, at ECMC, and she hopes to be back to responding to your calls, texts, and emails within a few days.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Janet Haacker
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Randy Marohn
Greeter(s): Ina Charsley & Terry DeLuca
Coffee Hour: Diane & Bob Eshelman

Volunteers Next Week 1/26/25

Liturgist: Sue Schurr
Tech: Betsy Crocker
Usher(s): Jessica Schurr & Billy Welch
Greeter(s): Janet Schurr
Coffee Hour:

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, Jan 19

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

Monday, Jan 20

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Church Stretch
7:00pm Session

Tuesday, Jan 21

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

Wednesday, Jan 22

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Jan 23

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Saturday, Jan 25

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Jan 26

9:30am

All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)

10:30 am

Sunday Worship for all ages (Parlor)

11:30am

Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

