



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

Trinity Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

May 26, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, who flung the stars into the night sky,
rejoices over all creation, especially us!

**Come to us, Laughing God, and gladden
our hearts with your goodness and grace.**

Christ, the Word of joy and life,
fills all creation with hope, especially us!

**Come to us, Brother and Savior, and reclaim
our hearts as your own.**

The Spirit, who breathes life into emptiness,
gives all creation the gift of peace, especially us!

**Come to us, Spirit of Gentleness, and refresh us
with the dew of delight.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, source of all goodness, you gave your Son for the life of the world and sent your Spirit that your love might abide within us. Teach us how to love each other this day, that we may have life, and have it abundantly, with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" #1**

NICAEA

CALL TO CONFESSION

Called to be God's people, we know how often we act as spoiled and petulant children. Yet, like a mother, God looks past our mistakes to see our hearts. Like a father, God lifts us to our feet to put us back on the path to life. Let us bring our prayers to the One who listens, and then forgives us with unceasing grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the mystery of creation, Imaginative God, you shaped beauty and goodness, yet we damage it by our selfishness and anger. In the mystery of life, Child of Hope, you became one of us, yet all too often we turn our back on you. In the mystery of peace, Breath of Life, you would gentle our natures, yet we cling tenaciously to our bitterness and hurt.

In the mystery of grace, Holy God, you forgive us our sins, that we might embrace others. In the mystery of mercy, you touch our lips, that we might speak gently to others. In the mystery of hope, you claim us as family, sisters and brothers of the One who brought new life for all, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of gentleness moves in our midst. Mercy, hope and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.

No longer lost, we have found our way home, surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life; breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day. Draw us into communion, enable us to love, conspire to make us one with you for the world you so deeply love. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

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

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

RESPONSIVE PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷**The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.**

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

SERMON: "God in Community, Holy in One"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" #7

NORWICH

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that all who love him may have life eternally. With loving hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" #240 - chorus only

ALLELUIA NO. 1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**In grace, we bind ourselves to those who have no life;
in hope, we bind ourselves to those who live in despair;
in peace, we bind ourselves to all damaged by violence and hate;
in gratitude, we offer our gifts and bind ourselves to you, O God, in the work of justice, love, and wonder as you build your community in our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

CHARGE

God our Life sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who hunger,
to those who search for a home.**

God our Hope sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who live in the shadows,
to those who long for companionship.**

God our Peace sends us out in these moments.

**We will go to bind ourselves to those who are forgotten,
to embrace those who are pushed aside by hate and anger.**

BENEDICTION

Our Memorial Candle shines today in recognition of tomorrow's Federal holiday to honor and remember all U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Sue Schurr

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Billy Welch, Jessica Schurr

Coffee Hour: Bonnie Sibley

Greeter(s): Bonnie Zimmer

Volunteers Next Week 6/2:

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Bonnie Sibley

Communion: Laura & Alvin Marohn,
Nathan & Adam Harrington

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, May 26

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

Monday, May 27

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, May 28

12:00pm – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, May 29

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, May 30

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship
6:45pm Bell Choir
7:15pm Choir

Saturday, June 1

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, June 2

10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting
11:45pm Church Picnic



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.