



First Presbyterian Church, Tonawanda

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

1st Sunday of Christmas

CCLI License # 2839486

December 29, 2024

10:30 am

Welcome to Breakfast Church! We'll have prayers, songs, and readings, with breaks to grab food, to reflect on the past year, and to share your growth with others.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Candlelighting and Reflection:

- ❖ Where in the past year have you felt the presence of God with you?
- ❖ What practice has kept you close to God?
- ❖ How has your faith grown in the past year?

Call to Worship:

Snow-capped mountains and sand castles on beaches,
comets flashing across the night, meteors crashing into moons
Dolphins playing tag in the ocean and trout resting on river bottoms,
storks nesting on chimney tops, and doves cooing in the mornings,
Children making angels in the snow, teenagers knotting in hallways,
grandparents watching favorite movies, nervous singles on a first date,
All creation joins in one song:
Praise the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Once In Royal David's City #140

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

IRBY
 8.7.8.7.7.7

Call to Reconciliation

Before we put away the ornaments and put the tree out by the curb, before we toss the cards and wrapping paper into the recycling bin, before we store the movies and music back in the closet, let us confess how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season, as we offer our prayers to our God, saying,

Prayer for Forgiveness

How patient You are with us, Loving Creator, and how hard we find it to put up with the foolishness of others. In humility, You became one of us, and we keep wanting everything to be about us. You model a life of meekness in service to others, and we are convinced

life is all about power and success. All creation sings of Your kindness, while we hurl angry words at those we say we care about the most.

Yet, rather than becoming frustrated with us, Joy of Christmas, You continue to forgive us. Clothe us with Your love, we pray, so we might be more compassionate towards others. Touch us with Your grace, so we might become more gentle people. Fill us with that peace which longs to reside in our hearts, even as we seek to continue our journey with the Child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence

Assurance of pardon:

In these moments, let God's peace dwell in your hearts. For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace.

We will be thankful, for in receiving God's forgiveness, we are enabled to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Enjoy Breakfast!

Prayer for Illumination

By the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Samuel grows in stature and favor with the Lord

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52, NRSV, Jesus increases in divine and human favor

- ❖ How have you grown over the course of the past year?
- ❖ How has your faith grown?
- ❖ What growth will this year bring?

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, NRSV, Samuel grew in favor with all

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Luke 2:41-52, NRSV, Jesus increased in favor with all

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Hymn: Amen, Amen (See the Little Baby)

Amen, Amen

All



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

Leader



1 See the lit-tle ba-by	ly-ing in a man-ger	on
2 See him at the tem-ple	tal-king to the el-ders;	how they
3 See him at the sea-side	prea-ching and heal-ing	the
4 See him in the gar-den	pra-ying to his Fa-ther	in
5 Then they cru-ci-fied him,	Je-sus, our Sa-vior,	and he

men. A men. A



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

Christ mas mor-ning,
mar-veled at his wis-dom,
blind and fee-ble,
deep-est sor-row,
rose on Eas-ter.

last time



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

Third Lesson: Psalm 148 Singing Our Song!

- ❖ How do you respond to God?
- ❖ What makes you want to sing?
- ❖ What would you include in your song to God?

Psalm 148

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Fourth Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

- ❖ How will you live as a child of God this year?
- ❖ What new thing is God calling you to?
- ❖ What old thing is God calling you to let go of?

Colossians 3:12-17 Clothe yourselves in love

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And

whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

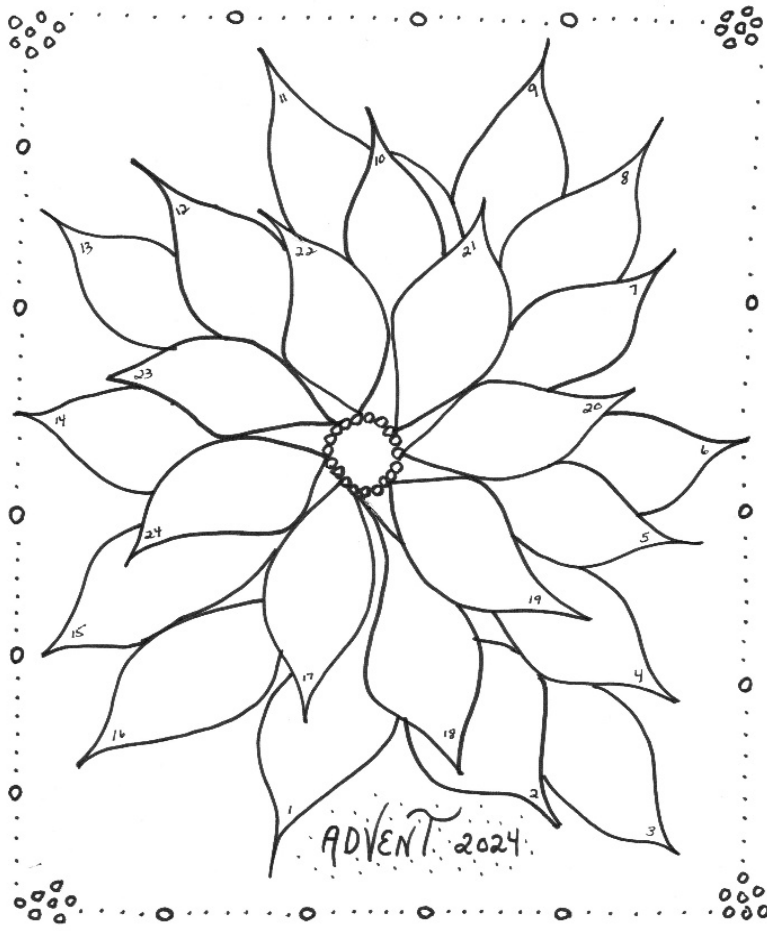
Reflection (Pastor Rebecca):

Prayers (Pastor Rebecca)

... May all we do with our hands, our hearts, our minds, our feet, our lives be done in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying, (Lord's Prayer)

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.



Offering Sentences

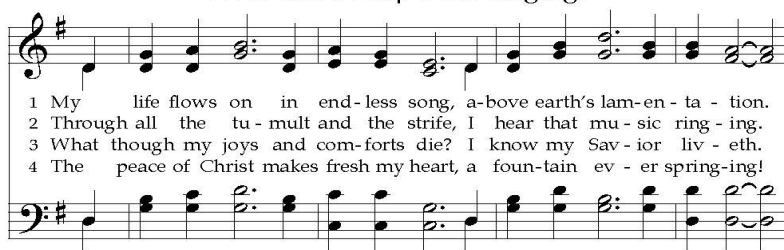
Prayer of Dedication:

May we not keep our blessings, but give them away: so that others might learn new dance steps, so children might be fed, so bridges might be built and so grace may flow to all in your world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

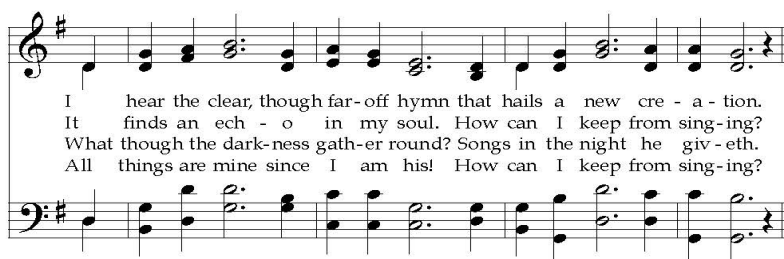
Closing Hymn: My Life Flows On #821

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

821 My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing?

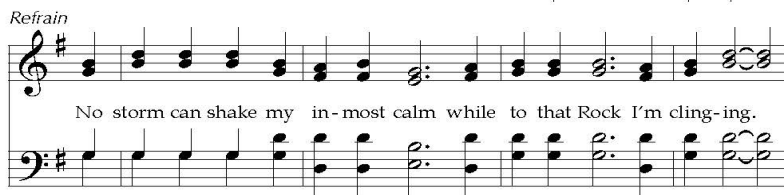


1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
8.7.8.7 with refrain

Charge:

Let us go to praise our God!

We will sing of God's hope as we offer compassion to the hurting.

Let us go to praise the Brother of the poor!

We will offer psalms of passion as we seek to lift others to new life.

Let us go to praise the Spirit of humility.

We will join in canticles of conciliation and peace for our broken world.

Blessing

Postlude

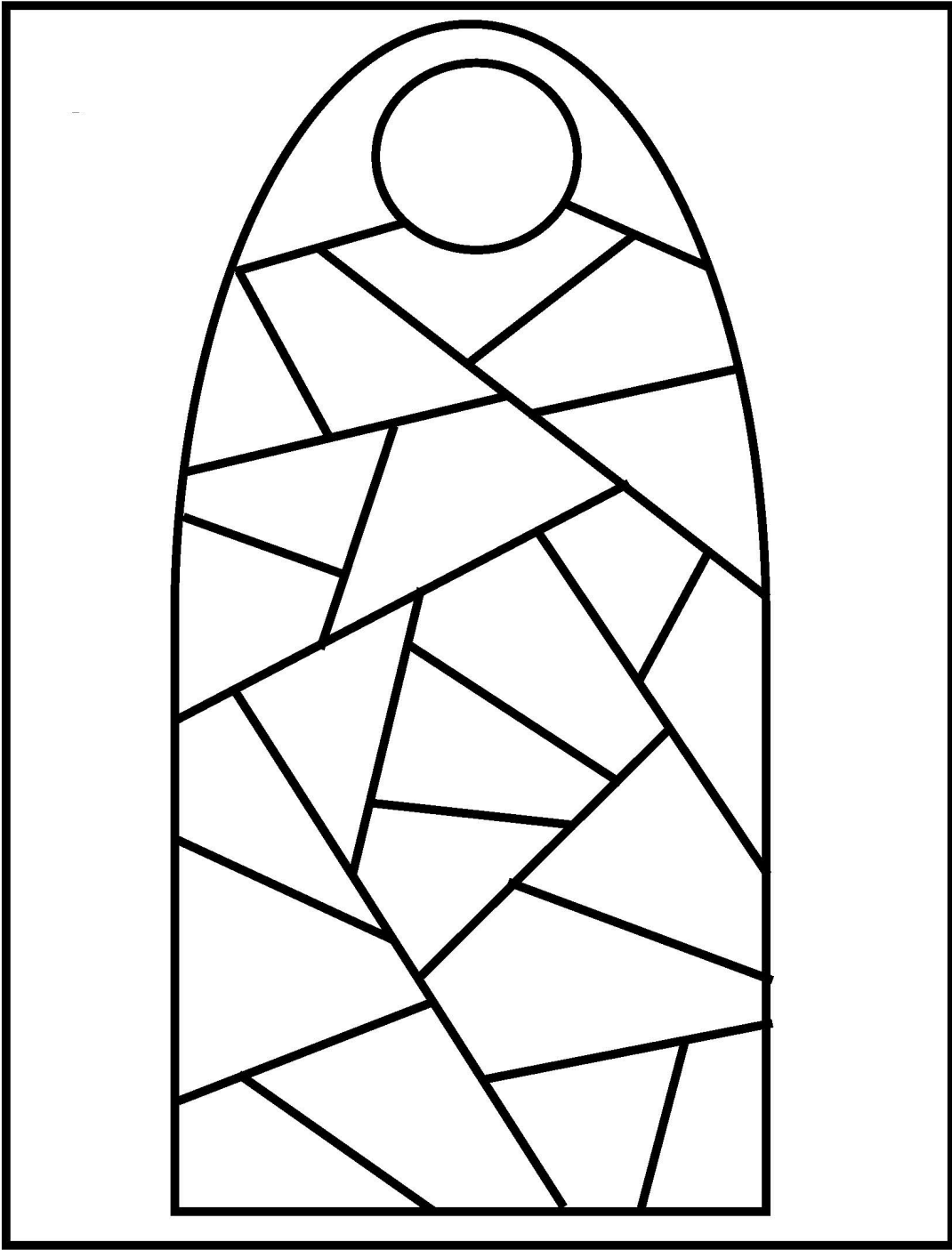


Image by Sybil MacBeth, www.prayingincolor.com