

## **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**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

CCLI License # 2839486

**May 12, 2024**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

From comfortable pews, from tricycle seats, from easy chairs in front of TVs:

**God gathers us in, giving us the words with which to proclaim the gospel.**

At kitchen sinks, at laptops and blackboards, at nursing stations:

**Christ calls us to share in serving all creation.**

In communities gathered to pray, in memories of those who served, in families grilling in the backyard:

**The Holy Spirit fills us with God's joy.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN: "To God Be the Glory" #634**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new. Join me as we pray, saying,

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**How foolish we are, Calling God,  
to think we could be happy  
when we sit in seduction's comfortable seats,  
and scoff at your call to discipleship;  
or run down the easy streets of sin,  
rather than following Jesus;  
or idolize the celebrities and superstars,  
and not see you in those who wait on us  
in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.**

**Forgive us, Author of Life.**

**Keep us from our silly selfishness**

**as we seek to become**

**those branches children can climb on;**

**as we hope to provide shade**

**for fellow pilgrims;**

**as we long to be continually nourished**

**by the Living Water of Jesus Christ,**

**our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

**Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Enlighten the eyes of our hearts, O God, and grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation through the reading of this, your Word. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

<sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

## **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

### **PSALM 47**

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples;

**shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

<sup>2</sup>For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,

**a great king over all the earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples under us,

**and nations under our feet.**

<sup>4</sup>He chose our heritage for us,

**the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout,

**the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises;

**sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the king of all the earth;

**sing praises with a psalm.**

<sup>8</sup>God is king over the nations;

## **God sits on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

**For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

### **GOSPEL READING: John 17:6-19**

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

<sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

<sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

**SERMON: "Created for Unity"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!" #839**

**ASSURANCE**

### **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**

Christ has called us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.  
So let us give generously to fulfill that call. **(Acts 1:8)**

#### **THE OFFERTORY**

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

**ALLELUIA NO. 1**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**As we offer our gifts, remind us that they will be used to heal the broken often lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don't have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowed alleys of despair. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**\*HYMN: "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" #547**

**AR HYD Y NOS**

## **CHARGE**

From the comfort of this place, to the discomfort of discipleship,

**we will go to serve your people, Loving God.**

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry, tutoring children after school,

**we will go to wrap others in your grace, Jesus our Brother.**

Listening to the stories of the ignored, learning the language of our newest neighbors,

**we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Linda Barry

Coffee Hour: Terry DeLuca

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca, Ina Charsley

### **Volunteers Next Week 5/19:**

Liturgist: Nancy Rolando

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Coffee Hour: Nancy Rolando

Greeter(s): Tasevski Family

## **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 12

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

Monday, May 13

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, May 14

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
12:00pm Worship Team

Wednesday, May 15

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
10:00am Circle 2.1

Thursday, May 16

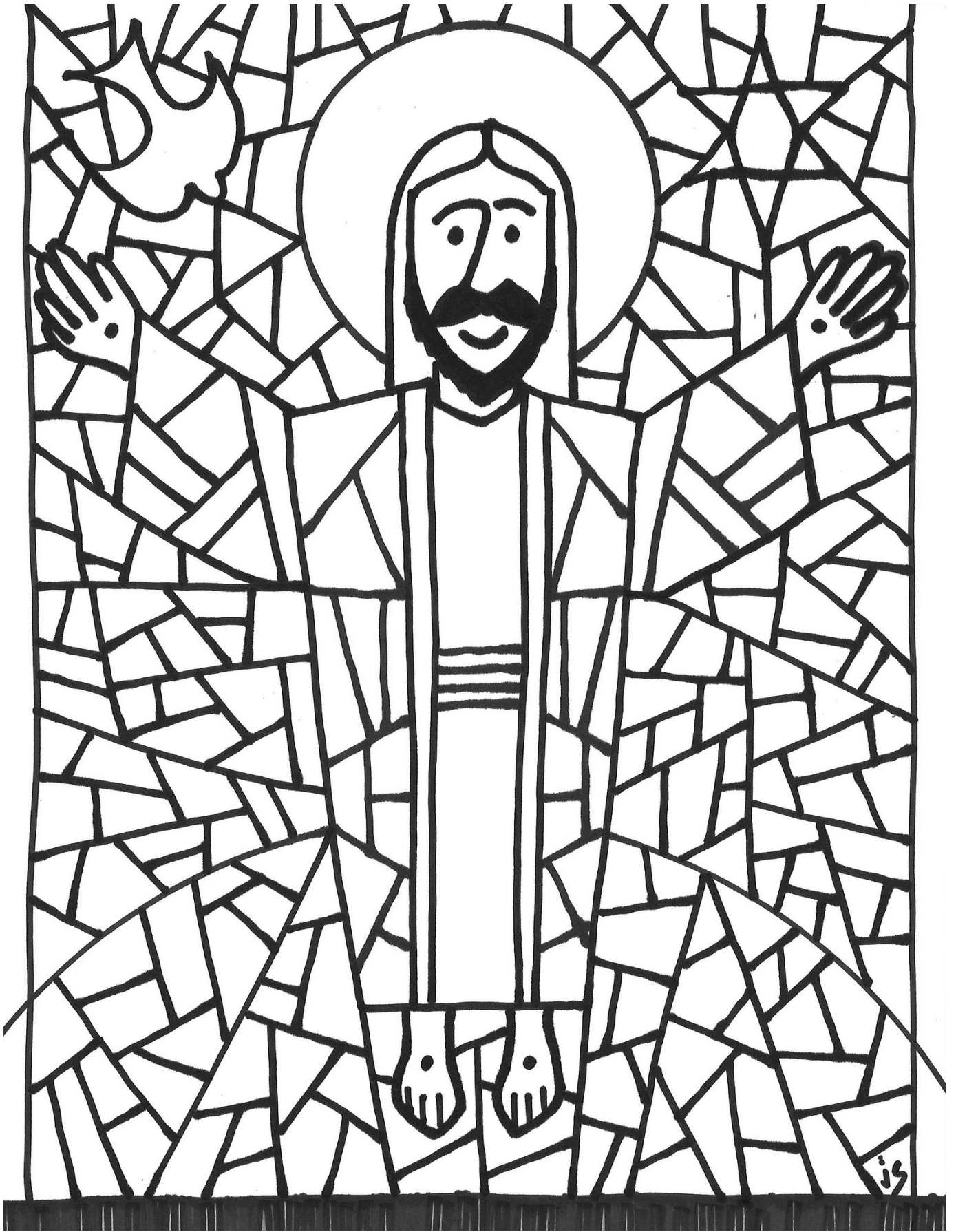
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm Hearts4Worship  
6:45pm Bell Choir  
7:15pm Choir

Saturday, May 18

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, May 19

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



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman, Calvin Institute, Rev. Mindi, and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, [stushieart.com](http://stushieart.com)