



First Presbyterian Church
149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
Christ the King Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

November 21, 2021

10:30 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is
when we live in unity.

We gather here together with our hearts and voices raised to God,
who is the center of our unity and praise!

GATHERING PRAYER

Sovereign God, come to us now in silent, holy power. Still our distracted minds, our bruised hearts, our longing bodies. Then speak the power of Jesus' name in such a way that we might hear it, in such a way that we might bear it into the world—as a people who seek not to preserve what we know but to make palpable who you are—for we move and pray by the gift of your breath within us. Amen.

HYMN: #267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the power of God not only to fashion the world but to mend and refashion our hearts, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you know what kind of people we are. We judge others harshly and fail to see our own sin. We look with suspicion and fear, and neglect to show hospitality to strangers. We treasure things that are worthless and squander your precious gifts. We withhold the grace and love that you give us so freely. Forgive us. Pour out your grace upon us to save us from our sin. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting—it cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Believe this good news: in Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven. Let us live as a people set free.

PASSING OF THE PEACE #448 “Peace of God Be with You”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-50

SERMON

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Avery Smith

God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table— a table that is not contained by one church, but extends across varied worship spaces, across diverse cultures and communities— bless the gifts that each of us brings today. May they strengthen bodies and nourish spirits, and be used for your glory. Amen.

HYMN: #201 *A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar, verses 1, 2, 4*

CHARGE

Be fair and just in everything you do. Forgive those who do you wrong.
Be merciful and kind, especially to those who are weaker than you.
Be guided by the cross of Jesus Christ, who is your judge and your salvation.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar (vs 1, 2, 4)

1 A prophet woman broke a jar, by Love's divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.
A prophet woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

2 A faithful woman left a tomb by Love's divine commission.
She saw, she heard: she preached the Word, arising from submission.
A faithful woman left a tomb, with resurrection gospel.
She saw, she heard; she preached the Word, apostle to apostle.

4 The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice and make them welcome!

Scripture Lessons:

Galatians 2:15-21

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷ But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰ and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."