



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

E-mail: church@firstprestona.org

Pastor Leslie E-mail: leslie@firstprestona.org

[Pastor Leslie Cell: \(716\) 490-0420](tel:(716)490-0420)

Web address: www.firstprestona.org

CCLI" License # 2839486

Pastor: The Rev. Leslie Latham

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Clerk of Session: Nancy Burns

Church Treasurer: Tom Dugan

Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns

Minister of Music: Kurt Ebsary

Administrative Assistant:

Judy Winters

Sexton: Kevin Donovan

Office Director of Christian Education:

Shirley Hagle

Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

March 1, 2020

11:00am

First Sunday in Lent
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

God of mercy, your word was the sure defense of Jesus in his time of testing. Minister to us in the wilderness of our temptation, that we who have been set free from sin by Christ may serve you well into life everlasting. Amen.

Prelude:

Call to Worship:

People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

We worship the Lord our God alone.

***Opening Song of Praise:** "The Glory of These Forty Days"
(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#165

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Rite of Confession

Rev. Martha Spong

When the psalmists did not know what to say, they built pauses into their prayers with the word "Selah." (Say-lah.) As we enter a time of prayer, we will mark our silences with the same word. Selah.

Selah.

(A time of silence)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

It is a good feeling to be forgiven, to know God cares for us enough to take care of everything.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

When we have done things well, God can see it. When we have been honest, God will know.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

O God, you knew all the things on my mind, but they still weighed heavily on me.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me. My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I can't hide things from you. I don't know what else to say.

And so we say it together.

Selah.

(A time of silence.)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.

I opened my heart to you, Lord.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

I did confess. I do confess.

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah.

(A time of silence.)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

It feels good to be forgiven.

God hears our prayers and forgives us. This is the Good News that brings new life.

We thank God for it.

Gloria: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

#582

Time With Young Disciples

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon: "An If/Then Proposition"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith:** *Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

Unison

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that, through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

***Hymn of Response:** "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

#440

Invitation to the Offering:

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

Offertory:

***Praising God's Goodness - Doxology**

#606

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn before Communion: "Be Still, My Soul"

#819

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Prayers of the People and 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(The congregation will walk down the center aisle, take the bread, dip it into the cup and eat. Gluten free option is available.)

Prayer after Communion:

Unison

God of the wilderness journey, thank you for giving us what we need for all the roads we travel. For the bread that nourishes our spirits and the cup that gladdens our hearts, we thank you. As we meet others on the way, may our lives and words, by the power of your Spirit, provide testimony to your gracious and faithful provision. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#435

***Benediction:**

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short;
 grace to risk something big for something good;
 grace to remember that the world is too dangerous
 for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

William Sloane Coffin

***Postlude:**

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers.

Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

1. Kindra Greenawalt – Carrie & Michael Grant's daughter diagnosed with MS
2. Scott Greenawalt – At MD Anderson Hospital for cancer treatment
- 3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:

Continuing Prayers: Scott Greenawalt; Pat & Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra; Judy Geerkin; Paul Card; Nadia; Doris Carlson; Bonnie Bringham; Marlene Tyrrell; Deal Kowsky; Bonnie Zimmer; Mary Jo; Shirley Hagle; Jackie; Denis Luzuriaga, Michael, Maras Family, Katie, DeSain & Fluellen Families, Brett, Diane and Bob Eshelman and family, Mary and Norma Bender, Nancy Bassett, Humphrey Family, Kay Knight, Michael Harrington, family and friends of Cheryl Yurek; Bruce Gillette and Oliver.

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; Peggy Hess, and Sue Strasser.

Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.

We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Tom Dugan

GREETER: Diane & Bob Eshelman

USHERS: Team 1

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation: TODAY, March 1 – 12:00pm

The Annual Meeting will take place right after worship today. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please only take one copy per family.

Morning Prayers and Communion Service: Sunday mornings at 8:30am in the Parlor

Sunday mornings during Lent, Pastor Leslie will hold a worship service with communion beginning on March 1st at 8:30am. All are invited. (March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, and April 5.)

Soup & Studies: Wednesday evenings during Lent at 6pm in the Parlor

Please join us for soup and studies at 6pm beginning on Wednesday, March 4. We will be reading: *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. We will meet on Wednesday evenings during Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, and 8.) So sign-up to make your favorite soup or dessert to share as we learn and grow together.

Church Women United of the Tonawandas: Friday, March 6 at 1pm

All women are invited to attend the "World Day of Prayer Celebration" on March 6th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 61 Payne Avenue, N. Tonawanda. The topic is: "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk" in honor of the country of Zimbabwe. Contact Donna Blinston with any questions.

Potluck and Putt Putt: Sunday, March 8 at 12:15pm

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8th for a fun time. Bring a dish or dessert to share and your own place setting. Then try your hand on our 9 hole indoor Putt Putt at "The Links at 1st Pres." Bring a friend or better yet, a whole foursome! Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Memorial Easter Flowers: The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter flowers to honor loved ones before and after worship on March 8 and March 15. The cost per plant is \$10.00.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday, March 15 – 12:15pm

The Adult Bible Study with Nancy Bassett will meet right after worship on March 15. The next book is Carved in Stone, about the Ten Commandments. All are welcome to attend. Please call Nancy Bassett (716-648-0581) if you wish to join the class and have not let her know. Feel free to bring a lunch or snack for yourself.

Hunger Sunday: March 15

Don't forget that the third Sunday of the month is Hunger Sunday. Food and cash donations are welcome and proceeds are donated to the Twin Cities Community Outreach. Drop off box is in the Narthex. There is a list posted of the things that the food pantry is in need of most; please check the list. Many thanks to Donna and Bruce Bliston for dropping off all the donations each month.

Memory Lane Respite Program: Tuesday, March 17

The Memory Lane Respite Program will be held from 10:30am-2:30pm. There are many opportunities for you to help in volunteering and no monthly commitment. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. If you know of someone that may benefit from this program, please contact one of the Respite team members. If you would like to volunteer, stop by and see what the program is all about or contact Mike Donovan. Fun for all!

Service of Healing and Blessing: Wednesday, March 18

A service devoted to healing and wholeness is held the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm. This is a "come as you are" service, includes communion, is open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness in their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Service Trip to VIVÉ: Saturday, March 28 at 9:30am

The Mission and Outreach Team will be visiting VIVÉ and doing odd jobs to help support this mission. Everyone is invited to come along and help. Meet in the church parking lot. For more details, contact Betsy Crocker.

March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Annual Meeting after worship	2 AA 9a	3 Deacons 1p	4 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p - Parlor	5 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	6 UFO 7p Church Women United - 1pm	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Potluck Luncheon & Putt Putt 12:15p	9 AA 9a	10	11 Circle II 9a Soup & Studies 6p - Parlor	12 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	13 UFO 7p	14