



# *First Presbyterian Church*

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

Church: (716) 692-1319

E-mail: [church@firstprestona.org](mailto:church@firstprestona.org)

Pastor Leslie E-mail: [leslie@firstprestona.org](mailto:leslie@firstprestona.org)

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

Web address: [www.firstprestona.org](http://www.firstprestona.org)

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**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 8, 2020

11:00am

Second Sunday in Lent

## DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

**Welcome and Greeting**

*(Please complete Prayer Concerns)*

### **Gathering Prayer:**

Lent is a time to take the time

to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,

a time to let the events up and walk around in us,

a time to intensify our living into Christ,

a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,

a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem

or to walk along the sea and listen to his word

a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us,

a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

~**Ann Weems**, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

### **Prelude:**

### **Call to Worship:**

As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey, God calls us to follow in trust.

**God is able to make us more than we have been and blesses us on the way.**

As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again, Christ invites us to become a new creation.

**Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light, and we are saved through him.**

**Let us worship our God who leads us.**

**\*Opening Song of Praise:** "Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#50

## AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### **\*Call to Confession**

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ. God, forgive us. Free us by the power of the cross, that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace, through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end. Amen.**

*\*Time of Silent Confession*

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, God is for us and not against us!

**For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

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

#582

## **Time With Young Disciples**

### LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Scripture Lessons: Scripture Lessons**

##### **Genesis 12:1-9**

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. 9 And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

### **John 3:1-17**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He 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." **3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **4** Nicodemus 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?" **5** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8** The 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." **9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

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

**16** "For 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.

**Sermon:** "Mission & Ministry in Washington, DC"

*Mission Trip participants*

## **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:** "Guide My Feet"

#741

**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.**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

**Offertory:**

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

#606

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

**Unison**

**Gracious God,**

**We dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD**

**\*Hymn of Sending:** "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

#747

**\*Benediction:**

**\*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.
- 2.
- 3.

**Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:** Kairos gathering and the women at Albion Correctional Facility and Teresa for safe travel to Texas.

**Continuing Prayers:** Scott Greenawalt; Pat & Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra; Judy Geerkin; Paul Card; Nadia; Doris Carlson; Bonnie Bringhurst; 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, Yurek family; Bruce Gillette; Oliver; and Kindra Greenawalt.

**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:** Sue Schurr

**GREETER:** Jane Crossan

**USHERS:** Team 2

**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, and April 1.) So sign-up to make your favorite soup or dessert to share as we learn and grow together.

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

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Coffee Hour - NEW LOCATION:** Beginning Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Coffee Hour will now be held in the parlor. See you there!

**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 Blinston 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.

### Circle II "Welcome Spring Sale"- Wednesday, April 1 from 10am-1pm

Come to the first sale of the year on Wednesday, April 1 from 10am-1pm. Lunch will be served from 11am-12:30pm featuring Sloppy Joe, fresh baked pie, and a beverage for \$6.00. (Take-out is available for \$6.50.) Come and shop the Mini-boutique, Thrift Shop, and Plant Place. Proceeds to benefit local charities.

March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>8</b> Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a  Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Potluck Luncheon & Putt Putt 12:15p	<b>9</b> AA 9a	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Circle II 9a  Soup & Studies 6p	<b>12</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>13</b> UFO 7p	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Lenten Communion Worship 8:30a  Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a  Adult Bible Study 12:15p  Hunger Sunday	<b>16</b> AA 9a  CE 6p Session 7p	<b>17</b> Memory Lane 10:30a	<b>18</b> Circle II 9a  Soup & Studies 6p  Healing Service 6:30p	<b>19</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>20</b> UFO 7p	<b>21</b>