

# No One Can Serve 2 Masters



Luke 16:1-13

## *First Presbyterian Church*

149 Broad Street  
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

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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

September 22, 2019

11:00am

15th Sunday After Pentecost

## DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

**Welcome and Greeting**

*(Please complete Prayer Concerns)*

### Gathering Prayer:

We belong to you, O God; we are yours alone. Keep us faithful as you are faithful—in all things, great and small—so that when this world passes away, we may be welcomed into an eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Prelude:

### Call to Worship:

In autumn beauty, blue sky and golden wheat clothe the land. Children gather apples, and squirrels gather nuts as we all prepare for winter.

**Harvest is a time of rejoicing in God's natural bounty, and for the abundance of our lives.**

We praise God for all we receive. Seasons turn but God's love is changeless.

**Maple leaves, crisp breezes, good news of Jesus' love, and the wind of the Spirit blowing through our lives—**

All these things assure us of God's faithful presence.

**Come, let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Song of Praise:** "You Servants of God"

#299

(Prayer Concerns Collected)

## AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### \*Call to Confession

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful, washes us clean. With one heart and voice, let us pray.

### \*Prayer of Confession

Unison

**Holy God, we confess our willingness to worship almost anything but you. Our devotion is given to our work and our play. We spend lots of time pursuing idols, only to find them unsatisfying. We have many masters, and we trade them back and forth, hoping that one will eventually have what we need. Have mercy on us.**

**Curb our greedy appetites and feed us with bread that will last. Focus our hearts on Jesus, who alone is worthy of our worship, and who alone is able to save.  
Amen.**

**\*Time of 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.

**Nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. We declare in the name of the risen Christ that our sin is forgiven and our lives are made new.**

**Passing of the Peace:**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

**And also with you. Time with Young Disciples:**

**\* Gloria:** “Halle, Halle, Halle”

#591

**Time with Young Disciples**

**\*Our Faithful Response:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

#698'

**LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lessons:**

**Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

18 My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. 19 Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: “Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) 20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” 21 For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. 22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

**9** O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

**Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. **2** So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' **3** Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. **4** I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' **5** So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' **6** He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' **7** Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' **8** And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. **9** And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

**10** "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. **11** If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? **12** And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? **13** No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

**Sermon:** "Risk Management"

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

### **RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**

**\* In faith, we acknowledge that God has acted in the past, in a holy history.**

**In faith, we confess that God seeks to rule our lives today.**

**In faith, we affirm that God continues to send prophets and speak through willing vessels to guide the course of all history toward its end.**

**In faith, we imagine that end to be characterized by the traits we find in Jesus Christ: compassion, justice, and love.**

**In faith, we long to be part of that purpose. Amen.**

~from *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

**Hymn of Response:** "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

#792

**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:**

God longs for us to bring everything that we are, everything that we have, to this relationship; God loves us that much. May the offerings we bring this day be tokens of our reciprocal desire to give all to God.

**Offertory:**

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

#606

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

**Unison**

**Who is like you, O Lord our God? You look with mercy upon the earth; you lift up the poor from the dust and give them a place at your table. Teach us to sing your praise forever and to show your love to those in need; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

**\*Hymn of Sending:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

#700

**\*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:** Denis Luzuriaga, Michael, Maras Family, and Katie.

**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; and Jackie.

**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:** Marilee Mathias

**GREETER:** Laura & Alvin Marohn and Nathan Harrington

**USHERS:** 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.

### **Bible Study: Thursday, September 26 at 6pm**

The Adult Bible Study will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm. For questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

### **Homecoming Sunday Potluck: Sunday, September 29 at 12:15pm**

On our fifth Sundays, we like to do something different. On September 29, we'll celebrate Homecoming Sunday, a time to welcome (back) folks who have been part of our community for a long time, a little time, "haven't been here in a while but it's my home" time, "I've been meaning to stop back" time. We'll gather for a potluck dinner. If the weather's amenable, we hope we can worship in the courtyard one more time! So bring your favorite homey dish to share, your place settings, your friends and family, and let's celebrate Homecoming in God's Kingdom. See you there!

### **"Octoberfest Sale" and Luncheon: Wednesday, October 2**

Circle II Women's Group will hold their "Octoberfest Sale" and luncheon from 10am-1pm. Lunch will be served from 11am-12:30pm featuring ham noodle casserole, fresh baked pie, and a beverage for a cost of \$6.00. Come and shop the Mini-Boutique, Thrift Shop, and Plant Place and relax and have a delicious lunch. Proceeds to benefit local charities. Take-out is available for \$6.50.

**Sub Sandwich Luncheon: Sunday, October 6 at 12:15pm**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6 right after worship. The Deacons are sponsoring a freewill Sub Sandwich luncheon. Bring a can of tomato soup or chicken noodle soup or a box of macaroni and cheese for donation to the Tonawanda Schools Holiday Party. Monetary donations are also welcome. Sign-up is in the Narthex.

**Marriage of Pastor Leslie Latham and Mike Donovan: Friday, October 11 at 4pm**

You are all invited to witness and celebrate the Service of Marriage of Pastor Leslie and Mike Donovan on Friday, October 11 at 4pm in our sanctuary. A reception will be held on Sunday, October 13 right after worship in the parlor.

**Duffield Youth Conference - Friday October 11 – Sunday, October 13**

A Youth Conference is being held at Duffield Camp and Conference Center in Delavan for grades 6-12. See Billy Welch for details.

**Memory Lane Respite Program: Tuesday, October 15**

The Memory Lane Respite Program will be held on September 17 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 would like to volunteer, stop by on October 15 and see what the program is all about or contact Mike Donovan.

**Service of Healing and Blessing: Wednesday, October 16:** 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, is open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness for lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join Elder Laura Marohn in the sanctuary.

September 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	<b>23</b> AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Circle II 9a	<b>26</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Bible Study 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>27</b> UFO 7p	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a Homecoming Potluck Lunch 12:15p	<b>30</b> AA 9a TOPS 6:30p					

## October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Deacons 1p	<b>2</b> "Octoberfest Sale" 10:00a-1:30p	<b>3</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>4</b> UFO 7p	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship/Communion 11a Sub Sandwich Lunch 12:15p	<b>7</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Circle II 9a	<b>10</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>11</b> Latham-Donovan Wedding 4p  UFO 7p	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a Reception for Pastor Leslie & Mike-12:15p	<b>14</b> Office Closed AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>15</b> Memory Lane 10:30am-2:30pm	<b>16</b> Circle II 9a  Healing Service 6:30p	<b>17</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>18</b> UFO 7p	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>21</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Circle II 9a	<b>24</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Bible Study 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>25</b> UFO 7p	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>28</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p  CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Circle II 9a	<b>31</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p		