



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

Music Director: Marla Maertin

Administrative Assistant:

Judy Winters

Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns

Sexton: Michael Donovan

Office Director of Christian

Education: Shirley Hagle

Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

December 31, 2017

11:00am

First Sunday After Christmas

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who seek redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of salvation, and live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Prelude: "Faith Noel"

(O'Neill/Kinkel)

Call to Worship:

Psalms 148 (NRSV)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.**

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

#29

(Ushers receive prayer concern requests)

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

*Prayer of Confession:

Unison

Almighty God, we confess that we do not live as you call us to live. We speak words of hate instead of love. We fight for "just us" instead of justice. We praise ourselves instead of you. You have shown us the better way to live, O God. Guide us to live as your faithful children, showing your love and justice and praising your name with all that we do.

**Time of Silent Prayer*

*Declaration of Forgiveness:

Leader: This is the good news in Jesus Christ:
God loves each of us more than we can ever truly imagine!

**All: God forgives us. God encourages us. God frees us to love others
Thanks be to God!**

***Gloria Patri:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*chorus only*)

#23

***Our Faithful Response:** "All My Heart Today Rejoices"

#21

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna^[a] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[b] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: LESSONS AND SONG

Introduction

*****(THE CONGREGATION WILL SING)*****

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: A partridge in a pear tree.

The First Day

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The Second Day

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The Third Day

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The Fourth Day

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Five golden rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The Fifth Day

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Six geese a-laying, five golden rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The Sixth Day

*On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Seven swans a-swimming,
six geese a-laying, five golden rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two
turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.*

The Seventh Day

*On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Eight maids a-milking,
seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings! Four calling birds,
three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.*

The Eighth Day

*On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Nine ladies dancing,
eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden
rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a
pear tree.*

The Ninth Day

*On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Ten lords a-leaping,
nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-
laying, five golden rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves,
and a partridge in a pear tree.*

The Tenth Day

*On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Eleven pipers piping,
ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-
swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings! Four calling birds, three French
hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.*

The Eleventh Day

*On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: Twelve drummers
drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight
maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings!
Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear
tree!*

The Twelfth Day

Conclusion

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Ecumenical version of the Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Stickles)

Doxology: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verse 4 only) #36

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart**

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.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #31

***RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: We came to worship.

People: **We go now to serve.**

Leader: We have been given the light.

People: We go now to let it shine.

Leader: We have been blessed by God's love.

People: We go now to share it.

Leader: We are Christ's disciples.

People: We go now to witness to all. Amen!

***Postlude:** "The First Noel"

(Ray)

* 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:

Continuing Prayers: Alvin Marohn; Jessica Haacker; Gerry Tyrrell; Father Michael Ubeler; Scott Greenawalt; Sid Tyrrell; Irving & Alice Hils; Holly Mazurek; Marge Klinger; Betty Kolnacki; Ruth Gebera; Aron; Wilma Bender; Wally Frech; Rosemary Taber; Jack Greenawalt; Willie Day; Mike Crowell; Larry Rayner; Jackie Rexford; Gail Schurr; Michael Grant; Paul Rayner; Anthony Dragone; Adehlia Kowsky; Peggy Hess; Russ McClure; Mike Klinger; Bob Erisman

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Lillian Manning; Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ann Thorpe; Ruth Weber

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

LITURGISTS: Tom Dugan and Pat Loeswick

GREETER: John Faux

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.

***A pair of glasses and a cross pin were found in the pews after Christmas Eve Service. They can be picked up in the Church Office.