



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

February 2, 2020

11:00am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

All hymns today are found in the purple hymnal, "Glory to God," and on the screen.

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

We should not serve the poor *like they were* Jesus. We should serve the poor because *they are* Jesus. - Mother Teresa

Prelude:

Call to Worship:

Come, all who are poor in spirit, all you who mourn, and all who are meek;

Come, you who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

Come, you who would be merciful, and you who are pure in heart;

Come, you peacemakers.

Let us come together—the weak, the simple, the powerless and the foolish;

Let us confess Jesus Christ as the source of our lives. Let us worship the God of every blessing!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Blest Are They"
(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#172

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

Gracious God, have mercy on us. Jesus shows us how to be meek, but we are arrogant. Jesus comforts the afflicted, and we blame people for their own problems, or insist that we can solve our own problems without asking anyone else for help. Teach us to be interdependent.

Forgive us when we respond with violence rather than peacemaking. Help us serve with those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and make us strong in your name. We pray in the name of the one who is love made flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Unison

Sisters and brothers, our sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ, who chose love over hatred and forgiveness over blame.

Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great; Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace. Thanks be to God!

Gloria: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

#591

Time With Young Disciples

Anthem: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" - The Choir

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon: "Basic Requirements"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith:** *from Romans 8*

Unison

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering:

With what shall we come before the Lord this day? We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ's love. Let us walk in humble gratitude, offering to God a portion of the gifts that God freely shares with us, gifts for the healing of the world.

Offertory:

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

#592

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Hymn Before Communion: "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

#70

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore, we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever praise your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "O for a World"

#372

***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. Cheryl Yurek – passed away Tuesday
2. Family & friends of Cheryl Yurek
- 3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week: Family and friends of Tom Peasland (Ruth Gebera's son) who passed away; Nancy Bassett is feeling better; Ruling Elder Lisa Giacomazza who was commissioned at Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church; Judy Geerkin diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease; and Kris Yettra (Pastor Leslie's sister-in-law) whose cancer has returned.

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, Scott Bradley, Kay Knight, and Michael Harrington.

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: Janet Haacker

GREETER: Mike Donovan

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.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday, February 2

The Youth will be gathering monetary donations at the back of the sanctuary at the end of the service. All donations will be going to the Twin Cities Outreach Food Bank.

Soup & Bread Luncheon: Sunday, February 9 at 12:15pm

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 9th. There will be a Soup & Bread Luncheon held right after worship. The cost is only \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for youth (ages 5-10), and kids under 5 eat free. Take advantage of the low cost and bring a friend or two. Sign-up to make a pot of your favorite soup and you eat free! Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday, February 16 – 12:15pm

The Adult Bible Study will meet the THIRD Sunday of the month at 12:15pm. Feel free to bring a lunch or snack for yourself. For questions, contact Nancy Bassett.

Hunger Sunday: February 16

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. Thank you for your support.

Memory Lane Respite Program: Tuesday, February 18

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, February 19

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.

Ash Wednesday Potluck and Worship Service: Wednesday, February 26

There will be a Potluck Dinner on Wednesday, February 26 at 6pm; so bring a dish to pass and enjoy some fellowship. The dinner will be followed by a communion/worship service at 7:15pm.

Deacons Tonawanda School Mission Project

The Deacons are continuing to partner with the Tonawanda Elementary Schools to provide much needed clothing to the children in need. This is an ongoing mission project and the Deacons would like to thank the people that have donated so generously. With the cold weather here, the schools would appreciate the warmer clothes suitable for the winter months. There is a designated tote in the Narthex to place your donation. See Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan for more details on how you can donate and what items are needed. Cash donations are also appreciated.