



## **First Presbyterian Church**

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

**Church: (716) 692-1319**

**Rev. Pastor Leslie Latham**

### **Come, Worship the Lord, Our God**

**March 7, 2021**

**10:00am**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God invites us to see the presence of the Holy in all the earth. God invites us to see sacred signposts in our own lives. God tells us:

**In my foolishness, find your wisdom. In my weakness, find your strength.**

God tells us:

**In my laws, find freedom. In my anger, find justice.**

God tells us:

**In dying, find life. In endings, find new beginnings.**

**Let us worship God.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

God of the journey,  
 we wander through the wilderness,  
 worn from our growing pains.  
 As we learn your ways, help us to  
 follow your commandments,  
 discern your wisdom, and  
 proclaim your glory.

—a prayer from [Why I Believe: Daily Devotions on Faith & Discipleship](#) (UCPH, 2017)

**HYMN: “How Great Thou Art”**

**#625**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God’s wisdom and strength rather than our own.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you, and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen. *Time for Silent Confession***

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**Brothers and sisters, in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness with God and with one another! Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE****PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit of God, let the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Psalm 19

John 2:13-22

**SERMON: “Jesus, You’re Making Me Uncomfortable”**

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

**OFFERING  
DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God who comes to seek the lost. Praise God who comes to heal and mend.  
Praise God who comes to pay the cost. Praise Father, Son and Holy Friend.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments—to love only you, not worshipping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**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 praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:  
Holy, holy, holy...*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy God, we give you thanks that you have claimed us as your own and nourished us in this meal as members of Christ's body. By the work of your Spirit within us give us the grace to glorify you as one, living body in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"**

**#826**

**CHARGE**

In the Lenten week ahead, find time and space to listen for God's glory as it is spoken in the world around you.

**BENEDICTION**

May God shine upon you,  
Christ fill you with true wisdom and strength,  
And the Holy Spirit guide you into all faithfulness,  
now and forever.

## **“How Great Thou Art”**

1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

(Refrain)

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the  
trees. When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the  
gentle breeze. (Refrain)

3. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing; sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin. (Refrain)

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill  
my heart. Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great  
Thou art!" (Refrain)

## **“Lift High the Cross”**

(Refrain)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Son of God. (Refrain)

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)