



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

Music Director: Marla Maertin

Administrative Assistant:

Kathleen Nolan

Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns

Sexton: Zachary Nolan

Office Director of Christian

Education: Shirley Hagle

Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

February 19, 2017

11:00am

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

Almighty God, you make the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and send rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. Give us grace to follow your example and show kindness toward friend and enemy, that we may live as your children who testify to your all-inclusive love. **Amen.**

As the acolyte lights the Christ Candle, take a moment to pray for people or groups who stand in special need of God's love.

Prelude: "Firm Foundation"

(Rippon/Harvill)

Call to Worship:

The world tells us to meet evil with evil.

But Jesus tells us to meet evil with love.

The world says, if someone hits you, hit them back.

But Jesus teaches us to turn the other cheek.

The world says, look out for yourself first.

But Jesus commands us to love our enemies and strive to be perfect.

Let us worship our God who walks with us, in comfort and in conflict.

***Opening Hymn of Praise:** "Shout to the Lord"

(Zschech)

Hearts 4 Worship

(Ushers receive prayer concern slips)

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Confession:**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Unison

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to distress you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

****Time of Silent Prayer******Declaration of Forgiveness:**

Sisters and brothers, your 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!

***Passing of the Peace:**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

***Gloria Patri: "Glory Be to the Father"**

579

***Our Faithful Response: "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"**

434

Time with Young Disciples

Anthem: "Forever"

(Tomlin)

Hearts 4 Worship**LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Lessons:**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

19 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: **2** Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. **9** When you

reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. ¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer^[a] among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood^[b] of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters,^[a] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Sermon: “How to Live like God’s People”

Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith:** *Selections from The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humanity. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements

about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore the church calls us to be reconciled to God and to one another. God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from his creation. With an urgency born of this hope the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

***Hymn of Response:** "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

372

Pastoral Prayer

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:

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

Offertory: "Seek Ye First"

(Lafferty)

***Praising God's Goodness:**

Doxology # 592

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

Almighty God, by your grace, accept our offering. Make us joyful in giving that we may grow in likeness to your supreme gift, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

STF # 2146

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** "All Creatures Shout to the Lord!"

(Assissi/Zschech)

* 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 Kathy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

1.

2.

3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week: Scott Greenawalt

Continuing Prayers: Rev. Scott Hauser; Rev. Hal Tyson; Diane Eshelman; Sid Tyrrell; Irving & Alice Hils; Holly Mazurek; Marge Klinger; Betty Kolnacki; Judy Geerkin; Ruth Gebera; Aron; Wilma Bender; Wally Frech; Rosemary Taber; Jack Greenawalt; Willie Day; Sue Klein; Mike Crowell; Larry Rayner; Jackie Rexford; Gail Schurr; Michael Grant; Paul Rayner; Sid Tyrrell; Anthony Dragone; Adehlia Kowsky; Leola Mitchell; Peggy Hess; Russ McClure; Mike Klinger; Bob Erisman

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

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 Kathy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Alvin Marohn

GREETER: Diane and Bob Eshelman

USHERS: Youth team

COFFEE HOUR: Jane Crossan and Nancy Dietrich

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 Kathy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Flowers on the Communion Table are to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Elizabeth whose birthday was on February 20th, given in love by Jane Crossan.

IT'S HYMN AUCTION TIME...And this year, we have 2 AUCTIONS!! The first one is to "retire" a hymn for the rest of 2017. The second one is to sing a hymn more frequently - once a month. The bid amount is starting at \$1.00 for each auction, going up in \$1 increments until we reach...MORE! The auctions will be held on February 26th after the worship service. Please come and save our handbells - they need repair work done and the auction money will help defray the expense.

Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday Feb. 28th is the day before Ash Wednesday, March 1st this year. On Tuesday, it's traditional to eat pancakes as a final treat before the fasting of Lent. A lesser known tradition, at least in Protestant circles, is the burning of last year's palms (from Palm Sunday), to create ashes for the next day. We're gathering to burn ashes on Tuesday at 6:00 pm--OUTSIDE, so dress warmly and in clothes that are okay to get smoky. If you have palms from last year, bring them! Then we'll gather inside and pig out on pancakes. Bring friends and family. Questions? Please call Leslie at 692-1319.

Ash Wednesday – Wed, March 1st: Pot Luck dinner at 6p ~ bring a dish to pass and your own place setting; Worship at 7:15p

Church Women United of the Tonawandas World Day of Prayer; March 3, 2017 at 1:00-3:00p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, New York; Program: The Philippines, "Am I Being Unfair to You?"

Morning Prayers and Communion will be each Sunday during Lent beginning March 5th in the parlor at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!

Annual Congregational Meeting will be in the Sanctuary, after worship March 5th.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 H4W 9a Sunday school 9:30a Worship 11a	20 office closed A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p	21 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p	22 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Hebrew scripture class 7-8:15p	23 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p H4W 6:30p Bell ensemble 7p Choir & H4W 7:30p	24 UFO 7p	25
26 H4W 9a Choir & H4W 9:15a Sunday school 9:30a Worship 11a Hymn Auction 12:30p	27 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p Session 6:30p	28 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Burning of the palms 6p Pancake supper	Notes:			

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Potluck supper 6p Worship 7:15p	2 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p Worship mtg. 6p H4W planning 6:30p Bell ensemble 7p Choir 7:30p	3 CWU 1p World Day of Prayer First Pres. Tona UFO 7p	4
5 Morning prayers 8:30a Sunday school 9:30a Choir 10:30a Worship / Communion 11a Congregational meeting	6 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p	7 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Deacons 7p	8 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Soup supper 6p Hebrew scripture class 7-8:15p	9 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p H4W 6:30p Bell ensemble 7p Choir 7:30p	10 UFO 7p	11
12 Morning prayers 8:30a H4W 9a Sunday school 9:30a Worship 11a FHBells 6:30p	13 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p	14 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p CE 7p	15 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Soup supper 6p Healing service 6:30p Hebrew scripture class 7-8:15p	16 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p H4W 6:30p Bell ensemble 7p Choir 7:30p	17 UFO 7p	18