



## *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

March 31, 2019

11:00am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

## MANY SHADES OF HEALING

### DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

#### Welcome and Greeting

*(Please complete Prayer Concerns)*

#### Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

#### Prelude:

#### Call to Worship:

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,

**God was.**

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

**God is.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment,

**God will be.**

Not denying the world, but delighting in it; not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit,

**God was, God is, God will be. Amen!**

**\*Opening Song of Praise:** "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

#792

(Prayer Concerns Collected)

#### Psalm 32

#### *The Message*

**1** Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—

you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean.

**2** Count yourself lucky— **GOD holds nothing against you**

**and you're holding nothing back from him.**

**3** When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder,

my words became daylong groans.

**4 The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up.**

**5** Then I let it all out; I said, “I’ll make a clean breast of my failures to God.”

Suddenly the pressure was gone—my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.

**6 These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;**

**when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts**

**we’ll be on high ground, untouched.**

**7** God’s my island hideaway, keeps danger far from the shore,

throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.

**8 Let me give you some good advice; I’m looking you in the eye**

**and giving it to you straight:**

**9** “Don’t be ornery like a horse or mule

that needs bit and bridle to stay on track.”

**10 God-defiers are always in trouble;**

**God-affirmers find themselves loved every time they turn around.**

**11** Celebrate God. Sing together—everyone!

All you honest hearts, raise the roof!

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Lessons:**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” **3** So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said,

‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!’<sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’<sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’

**Healing Centers:** “Many Shades of Healing” (Prayer Stations)

**Hymn of Response:** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#440

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
 Now and forever. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering:**

As people of the New Creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God through our tithes and our offerings.

**Offertory:****\*Praising God's Goodness - Doxology**

#592

**\*Prayer of Dedication:****Unison**

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD****\*Hymn of Sending:** "When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace"

#302

**\*Blessing** *from The Rev. Thom M. Shuman*

God sends us forth,

**to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.**

Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.

**We will embrace the prodigals with joy,**

**we will make a feast for all of God's people.**

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.

**We will go to bring hope to all we meet.**

**\*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:** Prayers for my sisters for healing and forgiveness.

**Continuing Prayers:** Scott Greenawalt, Tim, Pat & Bob Erisman, Alvin Marohn, Kris Yettra, Ruth Gebera, Judy Geerkin, Paul Card, Nadia, Joey, Ruth Weber, Doris Carlson, Bonnie Bringham, Marlene Tyrrell, Ruth Gebera, and Deal Kowsky.

**Prayers and caring for our homebound:** Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; Ruth Weber; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; 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:** Nancy Bassett

**GREETERS:** Pat Loeswick & Ryan Tasevski

**USHERS:** Team 4

**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.

**Morning Prayers/Communion Service at 8:30am:** Sunday mornings during Lent, Pastor Leslie will hold a worship/communion service in the parlor. All are invited.

**Memorial Easter Flower Sale:** The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter flowers to honor loved ones. Orders will be taken on March 31 and April 7. The cost will be \$10.00.

**Welcome Spring Sale:** Circle II Women's Group is having their "Welcome Spring Sale" on Wednesday, April 3 from 10am-1:00pm. Lunch will be served from 11am-12:30pm featuring Ham Noodle Casserole, fresh baked pie, and a beverage. Cost is \$6.00. Come and shop the Mini-boutique, thrift shop and plant sale. Proceeds to benefit local charities. Take-out is available for \$6.50.

**Memory Lane:** The next Memory Lane group will meet on April 16 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 someone that may benefit from this program, please contact one of the Respite Committee members.

**Service of Blessing and Healing:** Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30pm – We will hold a service devoted to healing and wholeness, which will include communion. This is a “come as you are” service, open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness for their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

**Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday:** There will be a Potluck dinner at 6pm followed by communion worship at 7:15pm. Bring your favorite dish to pass and place setting.

**Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday:** Please join us in the sanctuary for worship at 10am. There will be no Sunday School that day.

**Hunger Sunday: April 21** – 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!

#### **Distinguished Speakers Series – Wednesday, April 24**

The Mission and Outreach Team has invited Pat Loeswick to speak at 7pm. She is a former Social Studies Teacher in Tonawanda and has presented various, interesting talks to the community. This talk will feature an interesting story about President McKinley. This is a free event and open to the public; so tell your family and friends.

**Bible Study Class:** There has been a change in the day and time of the Bible Study Class. They will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm. The next class is scheduled for **April 25 at 6pm.**

**Deacons Tonawanda School Mission Project:** Thank you for your continued support with this ongoing mission project for the needy kids in the Tonawanda schools. Either a monetary or clothing donation is acceptable. A list of needed clothing items is posted in the Narthex. There is also a tote in the Narthex where you can drop off any donations. Please see Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with any questions.

**Raiders of Niagara Theater Company** is pleased to announce an exciting new show that will touch both your mind and heart: Life and Love in Buffalo. Showtimes April 5, 6, 12, 13 at 7:30 pm. Please see Mike Donovan for tickets.

April 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a  Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	<b>1</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>2</b> Deacons 1p  Mission & Outreach Team 6p	<b>3</b> "Welcome Spring Sale" 10:a-1:30p	<b>4</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Worship Team 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>5</b> UFO 7p	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship/Communion 11a	<b>8</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Circle II 9a	<b>11</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>12</b> UFO 7p	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a  Palm Sunday  Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	<b>15</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p  CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	<b>16</b> Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	<b>17</b> Circle II 9a  Healing Service 6:30p	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p  Potluck 6p Communion Worship 7:15p	<b>19</b> UFO 7p	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Easter Sunday  Worship 10a	<b>22</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p  Office Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Circle II 9a  Distinguished Speakers Series 7p Pat Loeswick	<b>25</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p Bible Study Class 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	<b>26</b> UFO 7p	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>29</b> AA 9a  TOPS 6:30p	<b>30</b>	<b>Save the Date:</b> <b>Friday, May 3 – 9:30am</b> <b>Church Women United 2019 May Friendship Day</b> <b>St. Paul's United Church of Christ</b> <b>\$1.00 Donation</b>  <b>Saturday, May 4 – 10:30am</b> <b>Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering</b> <b>Kenmore Presbyterian Church</b> <b>"God With Us/Humor is Healing"</b> <b>\$7.00 for Lunch</b>			