



# *First Presbyterian Church*

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

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

**E-mail: [church@firstprestona.org](mailto:church@firstprestona.org)**

**Pastor Leslie E-mail: [leslie@firstprestona.org](mailto:leslie@firstprestona.org)**

**[Pastor Leslie Cell: \(716\) 490-0420](tel:(716)490-0420)**

**Web address: [www.firstprestona.org](http://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

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Judy Winters**

**Sexton:**

**Office Director of Christian**

**Education:** Shirley Hagle

**Youth Director:** William Welch IV

# Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

September 23, 2018

11:00am

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
We welcome Kurt Ebsary as our Musician

## DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

**Welcome and Greeting**

*(Please complete Prayer Concerns)*

### **Gathering Prayer:**

God of the first and the last, give us strength of mind, that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship without wasting our time thinking about who is more important. Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children, totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

### **Prelude:**

### **Call to Worship:**

In autumn beauty, blue sky and golden wheat clothe the land. Children gather apples, and squirrels gather nuts as we all prepare for winter.

**Harvest is a time of rejoicing in God's natural bounty, and for the abundance of our lives.**

We praise God for all we receive. Seasons turn but God's love is changeless.

**Maple leaves, crisp breezes, good news of Jesus' love, and the wind of the Spirit blowing through our lives—**

All these things assure us of God's faithful presence.

**Come, let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Song of Praise:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"  
(Prayer Concerns collected)

#466

## AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### **\*Call to Confession:**

Recognizing that we are easily swayed by the wrong advice and that we have strayed from the ways of the Lord, let us confess our sins to God, with hope of finding love and mercy.

**\*Antiphonal Prayer of Confession:**

Lectern Side: God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.

**Pulpit Side: Our wisdom is none of these things. We compete for knowledge, and our learning fosters belligerence. Our understanding is insufficient, and our compassion limited.**

Lectern Side: We long for certainty and sacrifice too much for its sake. The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**Pulpit Side: We can't know with God's wisdom, nor always walk in God's righteousness, but we can come together to share our thoughts, to read Scripture, to sing, pray and make peace.**

Lectern Side: When we walk in God's way, we find God's forgiveness. Amen!

*\*Time of Silent Prayer*

**\*Declaration of Forgiveness:**

Unison

**The God who loves and sustains us hears our plea. The Lord desires for us a welcome into the blessed community of freedom and light. We are forgiven. Remember the poor and the outcast, welcome the child, and we will know as well, our own welcome, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of all things, now and forever.**

**\*Passing of Peace:**

May 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:** "Jesus Loves Me"

#304

**Time with Young Disciples**

*As the children gather, let us sing #2233, "Where Children Belong"*

**LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prayer for Illumination**

## Scripture Lessons:

### *James 3:13-4:3;7-8a*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

4:1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

### *Mark 9:30-37*

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**Sermon:** "The Greatest to the Least"

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

## RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**\*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed**

Unison

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he**

descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Hymn of Response:** "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!"

#341

### **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.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

We have been made capable of being good stewards of what God has given us. Let us, with gratitude in our hearts, give from what has been given to us, by grace.

### **Offertory:**

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

#592

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

**We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you. Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD**

**\*Hymn of Sending:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#464

**\*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. Ruth Weber – at Northgate Rehab after a fall
- 2.
- 3.

**Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week: Ruth Gebera and Jon Apple**

**Continuing Prayers:** Alvin Marohn; Rick C.; Gail Schurr; Kathy Evans; Gerry Tyrrell; Father Michael Ubeler; Scott Greenawalt; Irving & Alice Hils; Joan Cantonese; Holly Mazurek; Marge Klinger; Ruth Gebera; Wilma Bender; Wally Frech; Rosemary Taber; Jack Greenawalt; Willie Day; Mike Crowell; Larry Rayner; Jackie Rexford; Michael Grant; Paul Rayner; Anthony Dragone; Adehlia Kowsky; Peggy Hess; Russ McClure; Mike Klinger; Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra ; Judy Geerkin; Anna Dobrowski; David Haines; and Lauren Mauer.

**Prayers and caring for our homebound:** Lillian Manning; Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ruth Weber; Richard Weber; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Wilma Bender; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; 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:** Cheryl Yurek and Family**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.

**We would like to thank Kurt Ebsary for sharing his gifts with us today.**

**Tonawanda School Mission Project:** School is back in session and the Deacons are teamed up with the Tonawanda Elementary Schools again to provide much needed clothing to needy children. Either a monetary donation or clothing donation is acceptable. There is a tote in the Narthex where you can drop off donations. See Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

**Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering:** All Presbyterian Women of the church are invited to the PW Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 29 at Maryvale Presbyterian Church in Cheektowaga. Registration is at 10:30am. The topic is "God is With Us in Times of Trouble." The cost for lunch is \$7.00. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Any questions, see Jane Crossan.

**Communion Workshop:** Saturday, October 6 from 10am-12noon. For anyone wishing to take/serve communion, come and learn the meaning of communion and help make the bread that will be served on October 7. Sign-up with Pastor Leslie. All ages are invited!

**Sub Sandwich Luncheon:** Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 14 at 12:15pm. The Deacons are sponsoring a Sub Sandwich Luncheon right after church. Bring a can of beef stew, chili, baked beans or hearty soup for donation to Hearts For The Homeless. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used for the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**Office Hours for Secretary:** Judy Winters will be in the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00am-3:00pm and will have flexible hours on Monday and Friday. If you need to stop in at the church on Monday or Friday, please call first.

**New Bible Study Class:** The Christian Education Committee is offering a Bible Study, "God's Promise, I Am With You," beginning in October. If you are interested in joining this study, we will meet after church on September 30 to decide on a day and time to meet. Any questions, see Nancy Bassett.

**Octoberfest Sale and Luncheon:** Circle II Women's Group will hold their "Octoberfest Sale and Luncheon" on Wednesday, October 3 from 10am-1:30pm. Lunch will be served from 11am-1pm featuring homemade goulash, fresh baked pie, and a beverage for a cost of \$6.00. Take out is also available for \$6.50. Come and shop the Mini-Boutique, Crafts, Thrift Shop, and Plant Place and relax and have a delicious lunch. Proceeds to benefit local charities.

**Youth Adopt-a-Highway Service Project:** Sunday, September 30 – Youth meet at church at 9am.

**Hunger Sunday:** 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. Next one is October 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your support!

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>23</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a	<b>24</b> AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Circle II 9a	<b>27</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p  St. Francis Service Fair 4p-7p  H4W Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>28</b>  UFO 7P	<b>29</b>  PW Fall Gathering 10:30a  Edmonds/Frye Wedding 2p
<b>30</b> Adopt-A-Highway 9a Sunday School 9:30a  Worship 11a Mission Sunday  Bible Study Meeting 12:15p						
October 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	<b>2</b>  Deacons 1p	<b>3</b> Circle II “Octoberfest Sale” 10a-1:30p	<b>4</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p  H4W Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>5</b>  UFO 7P	<b>6</b>  Communion Workshop 10am-12noon All Ages Invited
<b>7</b> Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a World Communion Day	<b>8</b> AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p  Office Closed	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Circle II 9a	<b>11</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Worship 3p H4W Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>12</b>  UFO 7P  Camp Duffield Youth Conf	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a  Sub Sandwich Luncheon 12:15pm	<b>15</b> AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p  CE Mtg Session 7p	<b>16</b>  Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	<b>17</b> Circle II 9a  Healing Service 6:30p	<b>18</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p H4W Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>19</b>  UFO 7P	<b>20</b>  Fall Workshop for Teachers at N. Pres Church 9a-1p
<b>21</b> Sunday School 9:30a  Sunday School Teacher Meeting 10:30a  Worship 11a Hunger Sunday	<b>22</b> AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Circle II 9a	<b>25</b> AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p  H4W Rehearsal 6:30p	<b>26</b>  UFO 7P	<b>27</b>