

Olean First Presbyterian Church
200th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 18, 2022, 4pm

Greetings and Welcome

Rev. Laura Norris Buisch ~ Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Western New York
Rep. Joe Giglio ~ New York State Assemblyman District 148
Mayor William Aiello ~ Mayor of Olean
Rev. Kim Rossi ~ Greater Olean Association of Churches

Call to Worship ~ Rev. Dr. Bruce Levine

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the sea were born,
from age to age you are God.
Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning,
so we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper the work of our hands.

We gather to Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of our church and its years of faithful ministry to Christ in our community and our world.

Hymn ~ For All the Saints ~ No. 326

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Litany of Thanksgiving ~ Rev. Dr. Tony Evans

Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
hear our prayer.

For the Church universal,
and for this congregation of your people,
we give you thanks, O God.

For this place in which we gather
for praise and prayer, witness and service,
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord,
we give you thanks, O God.

For your presence among us
whenever your word has been proclaimed,
your sacramental gifts of bread and wine shared,
we give you thanks, O God.

For those who have been made your children
by adoption and grace,
who in this place were cleansed of sin,
buried with Christ in the waters of baptism,
and raised to new and eternal life,
we give you thanks, O God.

For disciples young and old
who have been nurtured here in faith,
we give you thanks, O God.

For all who have come here
asking your blessing in marriage,
seeking to love with your love,
we give you thanks, O God.

For deacons, elders, and pastors
who have led and loved us,
and by the offering of their gifts,
equipped us for the work of ministry,
we give you thanks, O God.

For faithful stewards among us
who have lived for others,
serving you by loving neighbors,
we give you thanks, O God.

For all the saints who have stood among us,
whose memory still enlivens our faith
and emboldens our witness,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the ministries of worship and mission,
nurture and fellowship,
and for all whose lives have been touched by them,
we give you thanks, O God.

Receive our gratitude, Holy God,
for the years through which you have led us,
and open us to the future you promise.

In the years that lie ahead,
grant us your encouragement in the work of ministry,
your consolation in our defeats,
and your challenge to our complacency.

Give us such trust in your abiding Holy Spirit,
that we may find joy and peace in our common life,
strength and courage to live in the world for your reign,
and hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Scripture

Nehemiah 3:6-12

⁶Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

⁷Next to them repairs were made by Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite—the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah—who were under the jurisdiction of the governor of the province Beyond the River.

⁸Next to them Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰Next to them Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house; and next to him Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

¹¹Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens.

¹²Next to him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

Message ~ Rev. Dr. Jason Cashing

A Glimpse of History

Remembrances ~ Rev. Gary Larson

Hymn ~ *Hear the Good News of Salvation* ~ No. 441

Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.

All the sins I have committed,
to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish;
Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.

Closing Prayer ~ Rev. Dr. Tony Evans

Benediction ~ Rev. Dr. Bruce Levine