

October 1, 2023, 11 am  
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Lento* ~ L. van Beethoven

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

Choral Introit

God is Good

**Everyday**

And Everyday

**God is Good**

Call to Worship ~ Luke 13:29

People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.  
Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

Opening Prayer

God our sustainer, as you broke open a stone to provide water for your people, open our hearts to your mercy and fill us with spiritual gifts that we may overflow with praise all the days of our lives.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Children's Time

\*Hymn ~ *Live into Hope* ~ No. 772

Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Reception of New Members ~ Dale and Cynthia Dutton

Prayers of the People

Anthem ~ *Welcome to the Family* ~ Debby Rettino

Minute for Mission ~ Peace & Global Witness ~ Chris Norton

Presentation of Offering

*The offering plates are at both entrances to the sanctuary on the fellowship hall side.  
You may place your offering there before or after church, or if you prefer, you can go to our website  
[Oleanfirstpresbyterian.com](http://Oleanfirstpresbyterian.com) and click on the donate button.*

Doxology ~ No. 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him,  
all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination ~ No. 455

Listen to the word that God has spoken;  
listen to the One who is close at hand;  
listen to the voice that began creation;  
listen even if you don't understand

Readings ~

*Exodus 17:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*Matthew 21:23-32*

<sup>23</sup>When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father

went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Word of God  
**The Word of Life**

Message

Music for meditation

The Lord's table

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.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O God of mercy and might.  
In your wisdom, you made all things  
and sustain them by your power.  
You have called forth people in every age  
to be your servants and speak your word.  
When we rebelled against your call  
and turned from your ways,  
in your love you called us back to you.  
You delivered us from captivity,  
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.  
You sent prophets to call us to justice and compassion.  
Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the choirs of heaven  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
in whom you have revealed yourself,  
our light and our salvation.  
Baptized in Jordan's waters,  
Jesus took his place with sinners  
and your voice proclaimed him your beloved.  
Your Spirit anointed him  
to bring good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives,  
to restore sight to the blind,  
to free the oppressed.  
He lived among us in power and grace,  
touching broken lives with your healing peace.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your church,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.  
O God, as you once claimed us in the Spirit's waters  
and number us among your own beloved,  
give us power to do your work, to show your love,  
and to live holy and joyful lives.  
Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
We pray the prayer he taught.

**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.**

The Communion of the People

Closing Hymn ~ *There Is a Balm in Gilead* ~ No. 792

*Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again. (*Refrain*)

Don't ever feel discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge,  
he'll not refuse to lend. (*Refrain*)

If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus  
and say, "He died for all." (*Refrain*)

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Allegro* ~ L. Boellmann

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Today's Greeters ~ Karen Bowersox and Matt Isenberg



**Plan to stay today for our  
First Sunday Potluck Luncheon**

**Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 4th,  
at 6pm for Game Night**



**Please bring in candy by Sunday,  
October 29th, for us to hand out  
on Halloween.**

Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	Colt Matz	Chase Ewoldt
Dale Isenberg	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Renee Ensell
Ken Stebbins	Punkie & Craig Sinesiou	Kim Whitney
Judi Blair		

*\*\*Please let the office know who can be removed and who needs to be added.  
Thank you for your help! \*\**

Happy Birthday to:

3 ~ Colleen Kelly

5 ~ Martha Nenno

7 ~ Molly Petryszak

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 10/1/23

Sunday – Oct. 1	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon First Sunday Potluck
Monday - Oct. 2	5pm Session
Tuesday - Oct. 3	6:30pm Scouts 7pm MLK Meeting
Wednesday - Oct. 4	6pm Game Night
Thursday - Oct. 5	10am Bible Study 1pm Deacons Meeting 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner 6:30pm Vespers 6:45pm Scouts 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir
Friday - Oct. 6	10am Coffee and Conversation at N. Union Tim Hortons
Sunday – Oct. 8	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon Usher Training

If you wish to speak with Pastor Bruce, please call 716-378-6773.