

September 17, 2023, 11 AM
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Voluntary V* ~ John Stanley

Good Morning, Saints

Announcements

*Please sign the friendship pads and include your contact info, email, phone, and text.
We want to make sure we can communicate better with you.*

Choral Introit

God is Good
Everyday
And Everyday
God is Good

Call To Worship

People of God, bless the Lord,
bless God's holy name.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love for us.

Opening Prayer

God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Children's Time

*Hymn ~ *Help Us Accept Each Other* ~ No. 754

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

Prayers of the People

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.

Anthem ~ *The King of Love* ~ John N. Beck

Minute for Mission ~ Peace & Global Witness ~ Chris Norton

Presentation of the 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. If you prefer, you can go to our website
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

The 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

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Music for Meditation

Silent Prayer

*Hymn ~ *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* ~ No. 757

Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud;
we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Chanson Religieuse* ~ Gordon Young

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)



**Season 21 - Journey On!
Series I: Odyssey**

Saturday, September 30, 7:30pm
at Regina Quick Center, St. Bonaventure University

Sunday, October 1, 3pm
at Blaisdell Hall, University of Pittsburg at Bradford

Tickets are \$20 each, students of any age are free

The following is a list of fellowship opportunities that we offer to our congregation (whether they are official church members or not). Please note that all events are subject to change as needed. The calendar in the weekly bulletin and notices on our Facebook page are the easiest ways to keep informed. Also, please call the church office (716-372-7844) with any questions about events.

* Event happens Year-round

Event happens September through June

#Weekly on Sundays

9:30am Bible Study

#Weekly on Thursdays

5:30pm Brown Bag Dinner – bring your dinner and share in fellowship

6:30pm Vespers - an informal service in the chapel that include prayers, scripture, and communion

7pm Bible Study

7pm Choir Practice – anyone is welcome to join the choir

*Weekly on Fridays

10am Coffee and Conversation – meet at North Union Tim Hortons for fellowship

#Monthly on First Sundays

Noon First Sunday Potluck Lunch – Bring a dish to pass for lunch after church

*Monthly on First Thursdays

10am Bible Study

#Monthly on Third Wednesdays

Noon Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) – Brown Bag Lunch followed by Bible Study. All women welcomed.

*Monthly on Fourth Wednesday

5pm Book Club at Perkins – Everyone buys their own meal, having read the book is not required

*Monthly Dinners Out

Dates and Places vary. Watch for announcements.

Game Nights

Dates and times vary. Watch for announcements.