

September 24, 2023, 11 AM
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude ~ *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* ~ Georg Bohm

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

Remember the wonderful work of the Lord—
who brought us out of captivity;
who feed us with bread from heaven
and gave us water from a stone.
God will never forget the promise;
therefore let us rejoice and sing!

Opening Prayer

God our provider, as you fed your people in the wilderness with meat in the evening
and manna in the morning, let your grace be our daily bread, that we might be nourished in faith
and grow as your holy people. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Children's Time

*Hymn ~ Why Do Nations Rage Together ~ No. 758

Why do nations rage together;
why in vain do they conspire?
Rulers of earth's vast dominions
light the skies with martyrs' fire.
Truth mistaken, God forsaken,
banes of righteousness arise;
yet shall they reap sore displeasure,
sure defeat before God's eyes.

To the children of the promise
God shall give the throne this day.
With a scepter forged of iron,
they shall dash their foes as clay:
faith revealing, humbly kneeling,
quench the fire and sheathe the sword,
for God's wrath is quickly kindled;
blest are they who serve the Lord.

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

Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall

eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Matthew 20:1-16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Music for Meditation

Silent Prayer

*Hymn ~ *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* ~ No. 761

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Festivals* ~ Gordon Young

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Today's Greeters ~ Chris Burton and Louie McClure



Today's flowers are given
in loving memory of Estelle L. Klein, mother of Karen,
by Tom and Karen Bowersox.



**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 Pittsburgh at Bradford**

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

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:

27 ~ Sean Evans, Lanna Waterman

28 ~ Mark Bowersox, Barbara Busack

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 9/24/23

Sunday – Sept. 24	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship
Monday - Sept. 25	9am ROME in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday - Sept. 26	6:30pm Scouts
Wednesday - Sept. 27	5pm Book Club at Perkins
Thursday - Sept. 28	5pm Finance Meeting 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner 6:30pm Vespers 6:45pm Scouts 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir
Friday - Sept. 29	10am Coffee and Conversation at N. Union Tim Hortons
Sunday – Sept. 30	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship

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



Minute for Mission

Helping to Stop Human Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children

A mere child herself, living in Madagascar, Rose had already married, given birth to and lost a child by the time she was 15. Upon discovering that she was pregnant just four months after her traditional wedding, Rose's joy at the birth of her son quickly turned to sorrow when he died after just 10 days.

One agonizing month later, Rose's in-laws demanded that she move out of their home and file for separation from their son. According to their belief system and the prevailing customs in their native Madagascar, if a baby dies before it is 1 month old, it doesn't have a good mother.

Overwhelmed and despondent at having lost everything, Rose turned to Madagascar's nightclub and discotheque scene where human trafficking is rampant. It was there that the Rev. Helivao Poget (hay-lē-vah-ō) found her. Rev. Helivao and her colleague listened to Rose's story and prayed with her. Rose agreed to follow them to a safe place where she was ultimately able to turn her life around.

Rev. Helivao serves as director of ministry to marginalized people at the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, one of Presbyterian World Mission's global partners. Thanks to her efforts and dedication, now Rose is helping to lead others out of the scourge of human trafficking.

The call to end human trafficking in Madagascar and the exploitation of children everywhere is made possible, in part, by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, which this year falls on Oct. 1.

This Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical issues around the world, like human trafficking in Madagascar. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations like ours for peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level. (TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR PORTION OF THE OFFERING WILL HELP YOUR PEACEMAKING MINISTRY)

Rev. Helivao is not alone in her efforts to prevent children from being exploited. She says, "PC(USA) mission co-workers work with us by visiting our activities, sharing ideas and providing materials and support. "PC(USA) regional liaisons come to see our work in the field, regularly helping us to write our projects and advising us in many other ways."

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we can touch lives far beyond our individual reach. It reminds us that we are not alone, that the world is a very big place, but we are in this ministry of peace and global witness, together.

We are the peacemakers. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously.

Let us pray ~

Lord Jesus, our good shepherd, as we declare that "you are with [us]," help us to remember that you are with all your children all around the world. Empower us to be with them as you are with us all. In Christ, through Christ and with Christ, we pray. Amen.