

August 3, 2025, 10 am  
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Prelude

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

God is Good

**Everyday**

And Everyday

**God is Good**

Call to Worship

Our souls long for you, O God;

**where are you?**

In raging wind?

**In trembling earth?**

In blazing flames?

**Our souls long for you, O God; where are you?**

Meet us once more, O God,  
in stillness, in silence, in smallness.

**Come now, O God,  
enter our hearts and minds, present now for you.**

Call to Confession

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are given access to the grace of God. Standing in that grace, we now confess our sins before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, we are still standing in the grace of Christ. Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the holy spirit, we are set free to love God and neighbor, and to work for the reconciliation of the world. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

*Our God Is an Awesome God* ~ No. 616

Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!

Morning Prayer

Living God, you call us to yourself so that we may live in wholeness with ourselves and our neighbors. Unchain your people and set us free to rejoice in your saving word, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

\*Hymn ~ *For the Beauty of the Earth* ~ No. 14

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

*Refrain:*

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: (*Refrain*)

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: (*Refrain*)

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (*Refrain*)

For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (*Refrain*)

Prayers of the People

Presentation of the Offering

\*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

Special Music

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

*Psalm 42*

<sup>1</sup>As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

<sup>4</sup>These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help

<sup>6</sup>and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup>Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

<sup>8</sup>By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup>I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"

<sup>10</sup>As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

<sup>11</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Luke 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had

worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— <sup>29</sup>for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup>When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

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 men and women 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**

Thank you for your faithfulness from generation to generation and especially for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. He walks with us along the way and fills our hearts with love. He breaks bread with us and opens our lives to experience grace. He covers us with healing and pours out love with abandon

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 ~ Around tables in Fellowship Hall

Prayer after Communion

Hymn ~ *Open My Eyes, That I May See* ~ No. 451

Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Benediction

Postlude

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)



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

**MEN'S**  
**BREAKFAST**



***Saturday, Aug. 9th, 8am***

***RocketCup Coffee***

***See you there!***

## Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	Mark Newcomb	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	Barbara Compher	Carol Bess
Thomas Burian	Sylvia Lynch	Bruce Levine
Dee Lorentz	Ron Register	Aileen Abbott

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

Happy Birthday to:

3 ~ Nathan Brenneman

5 ~ Kevin Kelly, Kristen Gibbs

Happy Anniversary to:

1 ~ Martha & Mike Nenno

## CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 8/3/25

Sunday - Aug. 3

*Communion*

9am Church Information Meeting

10am Worship

Friday - Aug. 8

10am Coffee & Conversation at Bigleys'

Saturday - Aug. 9

8am Men's Breakfast at RocketCup Coffee

Sunday - Aug. 10

9am Church Information Meeting

10am Worship

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

