

*First Presbyterian Church
Westfield, New York 14787
(716) 326-2643*

*Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 1, 2021
10:00 a.m.*

Prayer of the Day

Loving Trinity, your justice is the working out of your mercy and peace on earth. Nourish us with the power of the Son, and let us grow into his image and likeness. Humble us in our self-conceits so that we act not arrogantly but with humility, patience, forbearance, and love. Equip us for ministry on behalf of all who cry out to you. Help us to live lives worthy of the calling to which you call us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*** You are invited to stand if able**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We do not live by bread alone, but by the Word who became flesh and dwells among us. Christ is the true bread of heaven, the manna of freedom. Come, let us worship and give thanks.

***HYMN – 806**

I'll Praise My Maker

Psalm 146

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has given us a sign showing that love is stronger than death. The sign of the cross points to our exodus from bondage to sin. Let us repent, seek God's forgiveness, and enter into new life in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Holy One, whose love and justice condemn us, whose mercy and kindness feed us, we confess our sins and pray for your forgiveness. What terrible suffering we have unleashed. We have used other persons without regard for their dignity; we have abused the earth without care for its beauty or concern for future life; we have sought to bargain with you to smooth our way to heaven. God, change us. Put the Spirit of Christ within us and cause us to grow into mature, faithful disciples of the one who came from you to save us from our sin. Free us from captivity to our selfishness, bind us to the whole body of Christ, and let us bear witness to the truth that your love holds everything together in perfect unity. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The bread of life God sends is the offering of the only begotten Son. Whoever comes in Jesus Christ shall never be hungry; whoever believes in him shall never thirst. Believe the gospel; in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

ANTHEM

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator of unity, Body of peace, Spirit of community, bind us together around your Word and send us out to do your justice, show your mercy, and embody your redeeming love, glorifying you, Holy Trinity. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 16: 2 – 4, 9 – 15

GOSPEL READING: John 6: 24 - 35

SERMON

“Trust Your Hunger”

Rev. Dr. Nick Perry

***HYMN – 525**

Let Us Break Bread Together

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: God of tears, you are the giver of joy. Hear us as we pray for the sick

People: **We pray for those with chronic illness, for those who have life-threatening conditions, and for those with inadequate medical care. Bring the healing we need.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for all who are hungry

People: **We pray for those who live in regions of drought and famine, for those who cannot afford nutritious food, and for the vulnerable who are not adequately fed. Give us the food we need.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for those who grieve.

People: **We pray for those who mourn a loved one, for those whose communities are no more, and for those who cannot imagine a joyful future. Give us comfort to restore hope.**

Leader: Hear us as we pray for the world's victims

People: **We pray for those who are caught in violence, for those who are trapped in others' self-seeking, and for those who suffer from neglect. Grant us freedom from all evil.**

Leader: God of the poor and the poor in spirit, we pray for your help against all that oppresses, as we look forward to the kingdom you have promised and are bringing even now through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION for Offering

O Trinity, your love creates us, your passion saves us from sin, your power transfigures us into glory for you. Thank you for giving us a place in your good creation, for giving us the bread of heaven to free us from slavery to sin and death and for filling us with the holy light of the gospel for the building up of Christ's body in love. We present offerings to praise you and to help in the service of the church. Accept them as outward signs of our joyful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

COMMUNION

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God. In the beginning of time, your wisdom danced through creation, calling forth light and life. Through wisdom, you formed us in your image, calling us to love and serve you. Foolishly we turned from you and abandoned your ways of justice and mercy. Yet you did not reject us, but continued to call us and claim us as your own.

We were slaves in Egypt, and you freed us. We were hungry and thirsty in the wilderness, and you nourished us with manna and water from the rock. We had no home, and you led us into the land of your promise. We worshiped idols of our own making, and you called to us through the prophets to turn back to you. At last you emptied yourself of power and came to us as the child of Mary, holy God in frail and human flesh.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: 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!

Leader: You are holy, O God of power and might, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the one who comes in your name. In his life, he called unlikely people to follow him: fisherfolk, tax collectors, children, sinners, deniers, betrayers. On the cross he gave himself up to the powers of this world, showing in his body your great foolishness, O God, for loving such a wayward world. Yet by this very cross, O Wisdom from on high, you have undone and remade the wisdom of this world, drawing light from darkness, power from humiliation, life from death itself.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Communion

Jesus calls all people to sit at table with him: the sick and the uncertain, the weak and the poor, the Pharisees and tax collectors. From north and south and east and west he calls us to come and sit at this table, the foretaste of the kingdom of God.

On a night long ago, when Jesus sat at table with his disciples, they thought they were the hosts and he the guest. But then he broke the bread, and their eyes were opened and they recognized him. The guest became the host; the foolish one was revealed as Wisdom.

To this table, to this banquet of Wisdom, he calls us again.

Prayer after Communion (*in unison*)

Come, then, life-giving Spirit, brood over these bodily things and make us into one body with Christ, that we, who are baptized into his death, may walk in newness of life; that what is sown in dishonor may be raised in glory and what is sown in weakness may be raised in power. We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen

*HYMN – 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

*CHARGE and BENEDECTION

*POSTLUDE