

**BACON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A family of faith since 1922

166 59th Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14304-3812
716-283-5744

Church office hours - Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

January 29, 2023 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Large Print bulletin available - ask an usher

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

* Please stand if you are able.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

We utilize Feasting on the Word, Year A words for worship.

Introduction to the Old Testament by Andrew Foster Connors, Feasting on the Word, Year A.

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

PRELUDE “The Peace Within” Edward Broughton

(Liturgist)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Liturgist)

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

L: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you.

L: Let us now offer each other a sign of peace in genuine fellowship and reconciliation in community with one another.

(Pastor)

MEDITATION & OPENING PRAYER

(Liturgist)

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

L: What does the Lord require of you...

A: but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God?

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #415 “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” all vs.**

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

2. Come ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God’s free bounty glorify, true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

3. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

4. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

(Pastor)

CALL TO CONFSSION

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Amen.

SILENT CONFSSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

WE ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

(Liturgist)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.

FIRST READING Micah 6:1-8

Introduction:

This passage is a covenant lawsuit. The usual outline of this prophetic genre includes a summons, a call to witnesses or judges, a list of benefits that the plaintiff has conferred upon the defendant, and complaints against the defendant. Typically, a lawsuit should culminate in a judgment and sentence, but this one concludes instead with the lyrical passage – the Golden Text of the Old Testament.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and

redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

R: Thanks be to God!

(Liturgist)

HYMN #188 seated “Jesus Loves Me!” verse 1

1. Jesus Loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

(Pastor)

CHILDREN'S TIME & **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

SPECIAL MUSIC “My Jesus, I Love Thee” Arr. Pamala M. Robertson

(Pastor)

SECOND READING Matthew 5:1-12

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(Pastor)

SERMON

This is Just the Way Things Are...

Get Used to It...

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

***HYMN AFTER SERMON #213 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” vs.1, 2 & 4**

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round it head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

(Pastor)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

(Pastor)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Come, Thou Almighty King” John Dressler

*DOXOLOGY

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

(Pastor)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION and THANKSGIVING (Unison)

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

(curated from the speeches of Rev. Dr. MLK Jr.) by Rev. Wylie Hughes, Orchard Park Presbyterian

We refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us.

We refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

We believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression.

We believe that we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of this way is love.

We believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.

We believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

We believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

We believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up.

By the goodness of God at work within people, we believe that brokenness can be healed. “And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid.”

AMEN!

*ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***BENEDICTION HYMN #700 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” all vs.**

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!

(Pastor)

***CHARGE**

***BLESSING**

*** POSTLUDE “March of Faith” Paul Taylor**

LITURGIST – Bill Springer

Question for Reflection

How do we live in hope of a reality we cannot yet see or, at best, catch only fleeting glimpses? Where in your community's life of prayer and service do you see instances of God's justice, peace, and healing?

Then give thanks, and ask God, Where am I being called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all blessedness in the ordinary course of my day?

Prayer for the Week (Evening)

Loving God, you led me in the way of life this day and now call me to the way of rest. I give thanks for your light that illumined my path today. Now, it is night. As you beckon me to enter into holy darkness where I am one with you in your realm of uncreated light, I open to you in peace. Amen.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 immediately following worship for the purpose of:

- receiving the 2022 Annual Report approved by the Session
- receiving the 2023 Budget approved by the Session
- conducting any other business that may properly come before the Congregation.

Reports will be available for your review one week prior.

The **February NAP dinner** will be hosted by Island Presbyterian (1822 Huth Rd) on **February 1 at 5:00 pm**. Following dinner, we will assemble Dignity Totes for JFS to distribute to families and individuals who have recently arrived in the United States. We would like to put together 36 bags. It would be great if each congregation could concentrate on specific items. We need full size items for the totes. Bacon — shaving cream, after shave. Other items that you might want to add include — nail files, nail clippers, Bo day spray, masks, hand sanitizer.

Weather Closing

Tune to WIVB – channel 4 for closing information

Collection of Hats, Gloves, Scarves and Socks

The Penguin is back in our Narthex entranceway again this winter awaiting your donation of warmth for those who need it. Our collection will be shared at the NACC as a free offering to any who may need these items this winter. We will collect these items for both children and adults throughout the winter. Needed are new or gently used hats, scarves, gloves, and NEW socks.

The **Lion's Club** is collecting your used eyeglasses, eyeglass cases and old hearing aids. There is a collection box on the table in the Narthex.

We need Lay Readers/Liturgists!!!
Contact Cheryl McInerney - 716-283-5744

Today is the Fifth Sunday in January. On fifth Sundays, Session has approved the taking of a special offering for mission beyond our church. We will use this offering to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You may use the special offering envelopes in your offering box, or use one of the envelopes located in the pew racks.

The **flowers on the re-table** are dedicated to the memory of Teresa Kwiatkowski, Stanley Kwiatkowski and Patricia Clark

Please pay attention to those not in worship this Sunday. Give them a call to see how they are doing or send a card to say we miss them. Together we are the church. You can send a card to Mary Lou. She would love to hear from us.

Mary Lou Smythe
NFMNC
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Sunday school will be painting and creating some fun crafts over the next few weeks beginning today and continuing through February. There will be a Valentine's Day celebration on February 12. It's a great time to give Sunday school a try. We look forward to seeing you!

There is a **collection bin for returnable bottles and cans** located in the coat room. This is an easy way to help with our mission projects and saves you a trip to the redemption center. If you wish to take your bottles and cans yourself, Empower has a redemption Center at 4701 Military Road (near the intersection of Rt 31). Bacon Memorial Church is Acct #1.

2/22/23 - Ash Wednesday – Bread and Soup, Bible Study at 6 pm
Worship service at 7 pm

2/26/23 - One Great Hour of Sharing begins.

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression. Please give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

4/2/23 – Palm Sunday

4/6/23 – Maundy Thursday

4/7/23 – Good Friday

4/9/23 - Easter Offering – use the envelope in your offering box.

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Opportunities at Bacon

There will be someone in the office to answer calls
Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Next Sun. February 5, 2023

Sunday Worship Service, Communion and Sunday School.....	10:30 am
Crochet, knitting, quilting group.....	3:00 pm
AA meeting.....	7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: January 22, 2023

33 degrees, cloudy

Adults.....	33
Youth.....	2
Sermon - Hand delivered.....	2
Sermon - Mailed.....	3
Sermon - e-mailed.....	9
Facebook views	44
You tube views.....	0

Our on-line worship can be found on the **Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church You Tube channel**. You will find a link on our webpage at www.baconnmemorial.org. You can download a copy of the bulletin from our webpage so you can follow along with us! If you would like a printed copy of the sermon, you may download from the website or you may call the church at 716-283-5744 and we can send you a written copy of the sermon by e-mail/mail weekly. Thank you and may God lead us to find an end to this virus.

But if we walk in the light, as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

Thank you to
Ron and Fran Clements
for donating our Sunday
Bulletins!