

**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

April 14, 2024 - Third Sunday of Easter

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

Please silence all cell phones before worship.

* Please stand if you are able.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Liturgy resources used with permission from Presbyterian Outlook
by Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle of Austin, TX.

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER

PRELUDE “Christ the Victor! Christ the King!” Tom Birchwood

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

OPENING PRAYER AND MEDITATION

(Silent time.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

L: The Lord hears us when we call:

A: Come, let us put our trust in God.

L: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

A: Come, let us sing God’s praises with shouts of joy!

L: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

A: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God’s grace.

***HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #839 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” all verses**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

(a moment of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12-19

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Introduction

¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷ "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God!

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.

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 “Christ is Risen!” Ruth Elaine Schram

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-7

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

A: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Not a mere title...but a relationship.”

Pastor Lisa Giacomazza

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please share your joys and concerns

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Face to Face” Todd Kendall

***DOXOLOGY #606** (Please note – the church has tried to remove an identity such as male from God wherever possible to open our minds more to the vast expanse of God's strength and love. We have removed “him” from the Doxology to expand our hearts.)

Praise **God** from whom all blessings flow.

Praise **God**, all creatures here below.

Praise **God** above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION and THANKSGIVING (Unison)**

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39) *Let us say together what we believe....

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***ACOLYTES CLAIM THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***BENEDICTION HYMN #395** "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" all verses

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

*** POSTLUDE "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"** Mary McDonald

LITURGIST – *Barabara Logar*

4/21.....Lynn Pasek

4/28.....Karen Colton

If you would like to be a Liturgist, call Cheryl at 716-283-5744.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does it mean to you to be called a child of God?
2. Think on these words – "We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose." **Meditate on these words and see where the Holy Spirit leads you!**

Reflection on Today's Scripture

As you go out from this place, remember that "Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body... Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Are you visiting with us today? You are SO welcome! Please make sure you write your name, address, phone and email in our friendship pad located at the end of the pew so we can be sure you are on our mailing list for all future events. If you would like more information on the church, Pastor Lisa is available immediately after worship or feel free to speak with anyone of our Bacon Family! Again, welcome.

April 16 at 6 pm and Zoom. Fall Festival Volunteer Planning Meeting. Sandy Quinn is coordinating this fun event that will raise funds and friends for our ministry! The meeting is to enlist ideas and volunteers for the Fundraiser in October. Pastor Lisa will set up a zoom link and send an invite to anyone not able to attend in person. You just need to provide your contact information to Sandy Quinn – 716-425-6218. Please come if you are able and if you cannot attend the meeting but would like to be a part of this event, please let Sandy know! Thank you!

April 27, 2024 - Seder Meal at Bacon – 11 am. All are welcome. Please sign up so we will know how many to prepare the meal for. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

May 1, 2024 NAP (Niagara Area Presbyterians) **Dinner at Island Pres**, Huth Rd., Grand Island. 5 pm. All are welcome.

May 18, 2024 -Saturday - The **Presbyterian Men's** group is calling all interested Bocce players!! Come join us at Hyde Park, Niagara Falls from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring your family and friends to this fun activity for the young, old, experienced, and inexperienced!! Any questions call Lee at 716-875-7327.

Community Missions is still looking for pots, pans, Dutch Ovens, and small crockpots for residents who are moving to new homes. You can take the items to Community Missions at 15th Street and Buffalo Avenue.

If you would like to **order flowers for the re table**, please call Ron Clements at 716-283-9411. You may want to honor someone's memory with flowers in remembrance of a birthday or place a rose when a child is born.

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 Redemption Center has moved to 7500 Porter Road. Bacon Memorial Church is Acct #1.

The church now has a scannable QR code for our PayPal. If you'd like to support the mission of Bacon Memorial, please consider making a donation!



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

Sun. April 21, 2024

Worship Service, Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Baby Shower for Samantha Barry
Crochet, knitting, quilting group.....3 pm
AA meeting7:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: April 7, 2024

Sunny

Adults.....32
Youth.....2
Sermon - Hand delivered....0
Sermon - Mailed..... 7
Sermon - e-mailed.....8
Facebook views82
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.baconmemorial.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.

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