

First Presbyterian Church IN VICTOR

WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



First Presbyterian Church

70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Jimmy Reader
& Rev. Joy Bergfalk

Guest Organist: Sue Belcher

Order of Worship

July 23, 2023, 10am

**Please stand if you are able.*

*Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.
Isaiah 44:8*

Prelude “Canon of Praise—Johann Pachelbel”, arr. by Hal Hopson

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

*Opening Hymn No. 167 (insert)

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place”

*Invocation

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

All: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

**All: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

"Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

All: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Special Music

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
Sung by Joy Bergfalk

Union Prayer of Confession

We are afraid to invite you to search us, know and test us, looking for any wicked way in us, but you already see all. We cannot hide from your presence. We often try to flee, forgetting that you look at us with love and a deep desire to free us from all that constrains us. Help to realize you want to hold us fast, bring light into our darkness and lead us through all that we fear. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing the Peace**

Children’s Time

Unison Pray for Illumination

Open our hearts to hear your voice, encouraging, nudging, comforting us through the daily adventures and misadventures of life. We are hear to listen.

Scripture

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Sermon

“Do Not Be Afraid”

***Hymn of Response** *GTG No. 740 (insert)* “Lead Me, Guide Me”

***Offering
Doxology**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you do not give to us grudgingly, but cheerfully. Help us also to give cheerfully in response to your generosity and love. Use our gifts and tithes, use our very lives, to follow you in your mission for our world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn** *No. 281* “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Lead Me, Lord”
music by Samuel Wesley, Arr. by John Leavitt

*Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant.*

~Selected verses from Psalm 86

***Thank you to these members who are
helping with worship today-***

AV: Steve Simpson

Liturgist: Clay Girouard

Cover art: *Dream of Jacob*
Estate of John August Swanson



Ways you can SERVE

Upcoming Church & Community events to add to your calendars:
details on each event in your eNews
Summer Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9am-2pm

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 23

10 am Sunday Worship
11:15 am Fellowship Hour
7:30 pm AA & Al-Anon meetings

Tuesday, July 25

9:30 am Free Panera
7 pm Family Promise Bed Race*

*Fundraiser all week
This is a major fundraiser for FP and the more the merrier! Please consider donating to our team "Bryant's Hoopsters"!
<https://www.familypromiseontariocounty.org/amazing-bed-race>

Upcoming Dates for Summer:

Saturday, August 19, 9 am-Noon: Elder & Deacon Retreat



We are in need of additional volunteers to help prepare the elements for communion each month this Fall. **Communion will be served on the second Sunday of each month.**



We are also in need of Greeters and Coffee Hour Volunteers! Please sign up on the volunteer schedule bulletin board in the Welcome Center, or email Courtney in the office if you would like to help.



Great news! Larry is home! For those who do not know, Larry had surgery at the beginning of June. A leg nerve suffered some damage following back surgery and he's been recovering at the Friendly Home. Marilyn and Larry could use a little help from their friends while his recovery continues so I have set up a meal train. Please scan the QR code to sign-up! Meals must be gluten-free and they like fresh fruits and vegetables. Any questions, please feel free to contact me!



Brenda
brenda.14450@gmail.com
585-259-5687

Carol Fowler is now at Kirkhaven Senior Living and would appreciate cards and visits!

Carol Fowler
Kirkhaven
254 Alexander Street
Rochester NY 14607



Thank you for the gift of your presence here this morning. We are so glad you have chosen to spend this time in this space. Please know you are invited to participate in any way that is most helpful for you. You are not expected to announce your presence, but you are most welcome to reach out to anyone here. You are invited to fellowship following worship downstairs in Corey Hall and we would love to share a coffee and a chat. If you would like to have us reach out to you in the days ahead, please fill out the Visitor Card in the pew and drop it in the Offering plate or use the *QR code below*.

If you are here with children, that is wonderful, and they are welcome too. Sunday School is offered *during the school year* during the worship service for youth ages 4 through grade 6, following the Children's Time. Youth Group Sunday School is also offered for children in 6th grade and up every other Sunday. The Infant Care Room, equipped so users can hear and watch the service, is located at the top of the eastern stairs in the back of the sanctuary.

It is good to have you here. Welcome.

Interested in becoming a member?

Please call or email one of our pastors.

**Pastor Jimmy: 585-315-9241, Pastor Joy: 585-315-7826
pastor@victorpres.org**

