A close-up of a church steeple

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**Altamont Reformed Church**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 21, 2024**

**Prelude   “Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling” J.S. Bach**

**Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist**

**The Liturgy of Approach**

**Votum**

**Call to Worship**

Beloved, you shepherd us in love

**In your grace we feast, we rest, we travel this life.**

Beloved, you shepherd us in love.

**You lead us through death to new life.**

Beloved, you shepherd us in love.

**In your love we love one another.**

**In our love we worship you. Alleluia!**

**\*Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” (Purple) #1**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don’t know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:  Isaiah 44:21-22**

**The Law of God**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

**\*Gloria Patri (Purple) #581**

**Glory be to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen, Amen.**

**Ministry of Music “Those Who Wait On The Lord” arr. Ryan Nathaniel**

**(Help us, Lord) Brewer**

(The anthem performed this morning was originally arranged to honor Dick Howie at his celebration of life. We are singing it for you again today in honor of what would have been his 89th birthday last week.)

**Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.**

*Repeat:* **They shall mount up on wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Help us Lord, help us Lord in Thy way.**

**Those who love the Mystery shall renew their strength.** *Repeat*

**Those who live the risen life shall renew their strength.** *Repeat*

**Those who serve the suff’ring world shall renew their strength.** *Repeat*

**Those who die on the march shall renew their strength.** *Repeat*

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Children’s Message**

**\*Hymn: “Holy Bible, Book Divine” (Blue) #273**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

**(New Testament p. 137 & p. 203)**

**Sermon**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in you, God, for you provide for us, protect us, and bless us.**

**We trust in you, Christ, our strong and gentle shepherd: you guide us in life, lead us in God’s ways. You laid down his life for us so that we might know the path of forgiveness and love, and follow in that way.**

**We live by the power of the Hoy Spirit, God’s love alive in us, enabling us to love one another and even lay down our lives for others.**

**We know we have eternal life, and that the risen Christ lives in us, in that we love as Christ loved. We live as his Body, the Church, trusting the power of forgiveness, the power of resurrection, the power of love. Amen.**

**Service of Healing and Wholeness**

That the divine healing power may enable each of us to become whole persons, able to love and be loved, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we might find the strength and openness to forgive and also to be forgiven, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we will always remember that we are members of Christ’s body, and that whenever one person suffers, we all suffer, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God will grant us relief from every illness and disease, and from all suffering and anxiety, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God will grant mercy, courage, patience, and dignity to all who are survivors of serious disease, and to those who are disabled in any way, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God will grant us forgiveness of sins and freedom from fear, compulsions, and addictions, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord will enter our lives and be present with us in our pain, hurt, grief, separations and loss, and in our brokenness, confusion, darkness and doubt, bringing us divine mercy and the sweet soothing balm of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That through the Holy Spirit we may bring our suffering siblings in Christ your peace, love, healing, and consolation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Finally, that the power of the all-holy, good, and life-giving spirit will sanctify this oil and all who are anointed with it, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of the darkness into your marvelous light; enable us always to declare your wonderful deeds, thank you for your steadfast love, and praise you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Invitation**

**Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving with the Lord’s Prayer**

**The 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, for ever. Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF RESPONSE**

**Announcements**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below: Praise God above, ye heav’n-ly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Closing Hymn: “The Church’s One Foundation” (Purple) #321**

**\*Choral Benediction**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude   “Fanfare” Jaques Lemmens** 

\* *indicates the congregation stands, if able.*

**WELCOME** as we worship together. Please join us for coffee hour fellowship after our worship service.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

**PLEASE SPEAK TO A GREETER ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**CHILDREN BULLETINS AND SACK COLORING PAGES** are available in the front of the sanctuary.

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES**are in the back of the sanctuary.

**LARGE PRINT HYMNAL:**A larger version of the *Glory to God* hymnal is available in the front or back of the sanctuary. The covers are black.

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**VOLUNTEERS FOR TODAY**

Greeters & Counters………………………………………………….Judi Dineen & Noreen Novak

Side Door Greeter…………………………………………………………………..Sallie Townsend

AV Support………………………………………………………………………………Tom Boink

Coffee Hour…………………………………………………………...Betty Ketcham & Dave Glass

**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **April 28** | **May 5** | **May 12** |
| **Ushers & Greeters** | Bill & Kathy  Johnson | Cheryl Osterhout &  Rick Flaherty | Angie Stewart &  Jan Chisholm |
| **Offering Counters** | Kathy Johnson &  Volunteer | Rick Flaherty &  Tracy Mayer | Angie Stewart &  Jan Chisholm |
| **AV Volunteer** | Mike Gilman | Ryan Brewer | Tom Boink |
| **Coffee Hour** | Noreen Novak &  Barb Sargent | Natalie & John  Drahzal | No Coffee  Hour |

**COMING UP**

**Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall**

**Mon. April 22 7:00 p.m. Men’s Study Group**

**Wed. April 24 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting**

**Thurs. April 25 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal**

**Sun. April 28 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Faith Formation Comm., lounge**

**6:30 p.m. Joint Bible Study at Helderberg Reformed**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED TOMORROW MONDAY, APRIL 22.**

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE-VOLUNTEER FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNITY DINNER**

Our next dinner is Monday, May 6. We have experienced volunteers to guide you with any task. There are sign-up sheets for specific tasks in Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office or email Nancy at [nancymacarc@gmail.com](mailto:nancymacarc@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**THANK YOU:**

* To all how volunteered for the April 13 ARC Spring Clean-Up Morning
* To all who organized and those who attended the very successful first Big Faith Family event last Friday

**MAY ALBANY CROP HUNGER WALK**

The Albany CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, May 5, starting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Hackett Blvd. in Albany. Participants can either walk with the group or choose to walk on their own anywhere and any time during the month of May.  Kitt Jackson has started an ARC team on the CROP Walk web page.  Visit <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny> to join the team or make a donation,  If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to "CWS/CROP" and give it to Kitt.  Other walkers are invited to join the team. Kitt will have materials on Sunday, April 21.

**WE HAVE A NEW SEXTON**

We welcome and are pleased to announce Natalie Drahzal as our new sexton. Natalie and her husband John are very familiar faces here at ARC.

**PRAYERS FOR:**

We ask prayers for **Gabriel Zullo** and his family. This is the young man who has been in our prayer corner in past years. He now faces new and multiple areas of cancer throughout his body. **Jim and** **Hannah Pavoldi**, as Jim is finally home and faces many challenges in a long recovery; **Sandra**, daughter of Lois and Ron Ginsburg; **Nancy Harrigan**, Jackie Gregory’s sister, is now living with her other sister Maureen in Ballston Spa

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:**

**Claudette Riek**; **Jan Davis**; **Erin Parker**; **Linda Santy**, sister-in-law of Kitt Jackson; **Nicole**, friend of Barb and Craig Sargeant, **Brian**, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier

**THOSE WITH LONG TERM HEALTH ISSUES**

**Mona Shuker**; **John & Marlene Williams**; **Paige and Eric Tooker** (Cystic Fibrosis); **Patti Percoski**; **Paula and Karen Eagan**; **Lois Wood**; **Becky Bryne**, neighbor of Deb and Steve Ritzko; Keith Baratier’sfather **Paul**; **Barbara Ryan**

I**N LONG TERM CARE: Clara and Ralph Lasselle**, inKingsway Community Assisted Living; **Jeanne Picard-Fish**,at Daughters of Sarah; **Joan Whinnery**, at Judson Meadows Ass’t Living in Glenville;

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES**

If you have a name to add to our prayer corner list, or an update, please call the church office or email Nancy at [nancymacarc@gmail.com](mailto:nancymacarc@gmail.com) Altamont Reformed Church

***ALTAMONT REFORMED CHURCH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE***

***The Altamont Reformed Church is a community of Christian believers called by God to be part of the living Body of Christ, to worship God our King and to obey Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Enabled by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to study the Bible and live the Good News. We endeavor to serve and care for each other and to reach out to the world, sharing God’s love and inviting all to join in joyful discipleship.***

**CONSISTORY**

Rev. Matthew J. van Maastricht

Elders Deacons

Bill Johnson Jan Davis

Carole deForest Carol Lennebacker

Claudette Riek Noreen Novak

Angie Stewart Deb Ritzko

Laurie Warner Barb Sargent

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