



Altamont Reformed Church
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

Prelude

“Comfort Ye My People”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

Call to Worship

In the darkness there is a light.

In the wilderness there is a voice.

Your love, O God, leads us to you.

Your wisdom leads us to life.

Gracious God, be our guiding star.

Be our rising dawn.

Prepare your way in us,

that we may worship and serve in love. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Song: “Wait for the Lord” (Purple) #90

We wait for the coming of Christ,
who will feed his flock and gather his lambs.

Bring your peace to our communities, our nation, and our world,
the peace which passes all our understanding.

Keep us from the evils of revenge and retribution,
show us how to be peacemakers and workers for reconciliation in the world.

As we light the second candle, the candle of peace, let us reflect on how we might walk in the ways of peace as Christ taught us.

Song: “Wait for the Lord” (Purple) #90

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, our hearts are breaking, and we don't know whether to shout in rage or keep silent in fear. We take our rage and fear and regret and grief out on others, and we know that is wrong. We act selfishly; we consume and hoard and haggle, and we know that is not what you ask of us in this sacred time. **Help us. Mend our hearts. Hear our voices. Comfort us in our grief, and open our hands so that we will share in our sorrow and joy, in our hope and despair. Come to us again, we pray, and make us ready to receive you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 85:9-13

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Message

***Hymn: “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” (blue) #127**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 (Old Testament p. 667)

Sermon

***Affirmation of Faith**

**Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of God.
Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.**

**Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

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**

Prayers of the People followed by 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.

***Closing Hymn: “The Word Made Flesh” (Blue) #121**

***Benediction**

Postlude “The Advent Chorale” Felix Mendelssohn Arr. by L.N. Porter
** 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, DECEMBER 10

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: If you are visually challenged, a larger version of the *Glory to God* hymnal is available in the front or back of the sanctuary. The covers are black.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TODAY

Greeters & Counters.....Claudette Riek & Deb McKee
Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
AV Support.....Ryan Brewer

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	December 17	December 24	December 31
Greeters	Jeff Countermine & Jeff Gregory	Michelle Stevens & Kelli Moore	Angie Stewart & Marianne Baratier
Offering Counters	Jeff Countermine & Jeff Gregory	Michelle Stevens & Kelli Moore	Angie Stewart & Marianne Baratier
AV Volunteer	Tim Boink	Michael Gilman	Ryan Brewer

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
2-2:45 p.m. Shepherds and angels meet in F. Hall to dress for the nativity
3:00 p.m. Living Nativity on our front lawn
6:30 p.m. Fall Book Study here at ARC
Tues. Dec. 12 6:00 p.m. Ladies Potluck Dinner
Wed. Dec. 13 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal
Sun. Dec. 17 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 p.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

AT A GLANCE-READ BELOW FOR DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING:

- ARC's Living Nativity today at 3:00 p.m.
- ARC Needs Volunteers to Fill the Roles of Nativity Angels and Shepherds
- Ladies Potluck Tuesday, December 12 at 6pm
- Longest Night Worship Service Thursday, December 21
- Candlelight Worship Service Sunday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.
- Advent Worship Opportunities
- Christmas Adopt-A-Family Donations
- ARC Worship Service Cancellation Policy Due to Severe Weather
- Volunteer Sign Up Sheets for our January 1 Community Dinner Are Out
- Prayer Corner

ARC'S LIVING NATIVITY IS TODAY AT 3:00 P.M.

Our Living Nativity will take place on the front lawn of our church. Invite a friend and watch the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, presented in this unique and beautiful way. Our nativity presentation is part of Altamont's 2023 WinterFest holiday celebration.

ARC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO FILL THE ROLES OF ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Meet in Fellowship Hall between 2-2:45pm. You can still be part of our Living Nativity even if you have not signed up.

LADIES POTLUCK DINNER THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

It starts at 6pm. Join in holiday fun and a "white elephant" gift exchange. (Must be something in your home you don't want, or need, anymore.) Come and enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun! If you can, please sign up in Fellowship Hall, so Barbara Wilford has an idea of the number of ladies coming. You do not need to list the dish you will share. For more information contact Barbara at 518-313-9633.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE THURSDAY, DEC. 21 AT 7:00 P.M.

If you are facing the holidays with sadness rather than joy, please consider attending this service that occurs on the longest day of the year. It provides a deeply meaningful worship time to companion with those who struggle during the holiday season, particularly those who are grieving.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 6:30 P.M. ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Invite a friend and be part of this special worship service. Greeters are Lois Ginsburg and Pam Fialkoff.

ARC ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Today

Second Sunday of Advent 3:00 p.m. "Living Nativity" on the church front lawn

Sunday, December 17 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent

Thurs. December 21 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service
Service of reflection, healing, and hope

Sunday, December 24 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with special music by our
Fourth Sunday of Advent Chancel Choir

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY IS BACK!

Once again we will be adopting a local family for the holidays. Look for the sign up sheet with the family's wish list in the back of the Sanctuary. Please sign up for a gift or gift card, take the post it note with you, and attach it to the wrapped gift when you bring it to the bin under the sign-up board by **Sunday, Dec. 17**. Cash gifts are also welcome; there is an envelope to receive them on the board. Checks may be made out to ARC Benevolence with "family" on the memo line.

IN CASE OF SEVERE WEATHER ON ANY SUNDAY MORNING...

During the winter months in case weather circumstances necessitate the cancellation of worship:

- A message will be placed on the church's answering machine (518-861-8711) announcing the cancellation.
- Members of Consistory will make the effort to call the homes of individuals and families who typically worship on Sunday mornings.
- An email will go out to individuals and families who typically worship on Sunday mornings.
- A sign about the cancellation will be posted on the parking lot door to the church building.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS FOR OUR JANUARY COMMUNITY DINNER ARE OUT

We are asking volunteers to sign up by mid-December because our next scheduled dinner falls on New Year's Day. Our response this past week was very good. We still need more people to sign up. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall or you can email Nancy at the church office. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR: **Jan Davis**, in the hospital with new complications since her stroke; **Sandra**, daughter of Lois and Ron Ginsburg, going through tests; **Emmet Ehring**, Diane Stedman's grandson, who is going through a difficult time; **Brian Cummings**, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier, back in Albany Med underdoing intense chemo; **Gail Kidder**, sister of Deb McKee, in the hospital and anticipating a cardioversion; **Nancy Harrington**, sister of Jackie Gregory, was in a serious car accident Thursday, caused by a medical condition. She is expected to go to Boston for serious surgery on December 29.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Corrine Marie McCarthy, infant granddaughter of the Gurneys; Angie's sister **Lori**; **Curt Damhof**, in chemo treatments; **Jim Pavoldi**; Keith Baratier's father, **Paul**

THOSE WITH LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES: **Patti Percoski**; **Paige and Eric Tooker** (Cystic Fibrosis); **Paula and Karen Eagan**; **Lois Wood**; **Becky Bryne**, neighbor of Deb and Steve Ritzko; **Barbara Ryan**

IN LONG-TERM CARE: **Clara and Ralph Lasselle** in Kingsway Community Assisted Living; **Jeanne Picard-Fish** at Daughters of Sarah; **Joan Whinnery** at Judson Meadows Ass't Living in Glenville

REQUESTS AND UPDATES FOR PRAYER CORNER

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

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

**THE POINSETTIAS GRACING THE CHANCEL AREA ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING:**

THE BARATIER FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF DOMINICK & MARY DINOLA AND NANCY BARATIER
BETH BURLINGAME
IN MEMORY OF PORTER AND SALLY BIDLEMAN AND MARK BURLINGAME
THE COUNTERMINE FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF RUTH & IRV COUNTERMINE
CAROLE deFOREST
IN MEMORY OF REV. WILL deFOREST
JUDI DINEEN
IN MEMORY OF CARL AND DOTTIE WALTERS
CINDY EDWARDS
IN MEMORY OF JOEL EDWARDS
DAVID AND PAM FIALKOFF
IN MEMORY OF THE FIALKOFF AND SANTAGATA FAMILIES
THE GURNEYS
IN MEMORY OF IDA & HOWARD GURNEY AND AL & HILDE STUTZ
KITT JACKSON
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES
EMILY LARAWAY
IN MEMORY OF ANDREW W. LARAWAY
CAROL LENNEBACKER
IN MEMORY OF WAYNE LENNEBACKER
NOREEN NOVAK
IN MEMORY OF JOE, RICKY, AND JEFF NOVAK, AND BILL & IRENE GADD
MATT, ERIN, ELEANOR & MARGARET PARKER
IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL PARKER, SR. AND CHARLES BROWN
SAM PICCOLINO
IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY & MARGARET AND ANTHONY JR. PICCOLINO
DEB RITZKO
IN HONOR OF OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL
BARB AND CRAIG SARGENT
IN MEMORY OF SHIRLEY & EDWARD SARGENT AND DOUGLAS HENRY
DIANE AND SARAH STEDMAN
**IN MEMORY OF HOLLIS STEDMAN, JENNIFER BRENNAN,
ELLIOT EHRING, DAISY SHARP, AND LAUREN STEDMAN**
CHRISTINE TUCKER AND THE AUDI FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF NICK AUDI