



Prelude

Altamont Reformed Church  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023

Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

### THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

#### Call to Worship

A new world is coming, according to the promises of God.  
The time is coming.

**We wait in hope, watching the clock.**

We cannot hasten the future. But we wait with intention.

**Deepen our longing, God, and bless our waiting.**

#### Advent Candle Lighting

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

We wait for the coming of Christ,  
**who shall execute justice and righteousness.**

Our hope is grounded in your promises to redeem,  
**promises of mercy, love, and grace for all people.**

Grant us patience as we wait for our future hope,  
**hope for a world where all know the presence and peace of God.**

As we light the first candle, the candle of hope, let us reflect on our own hopes for the healing of the world.

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

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, We confess the darkness and cold in our lives. Like barren trees in winter, we do not bear the fruits of love as you would have us. Forgive our sin, heal our hearts, and be born in us again, that by your grace we may bear your light. O come to us, Lord, and save us! Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon: Zephaniah 3:14-18**

**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**

**“The Yearning”**

**Courtney/Boersma**

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

**Refrain:** Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

### Children's Message

\*Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Purple) #88 vv. 1,3,4,5

### Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-18 (Old Testament p. 738)

### Sermon

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Meaning of the Sacrament

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving (Insert)

Communion Hymn: "Come to the Table" (Purple) #507

Words of Institution

**THE LITURGY OF RESPONSE**

Thanksgiving After Communion (Insert)

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: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Purple) #82

### \*Benediction

## Postlude

*\* 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 3

**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.....Bill & Kathy Johnson  
 Counters.....Kathy Johnson & Linda Warnken  
 Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend  
 AV Support..... Michael Gilman

**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS**

	<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>December 24</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Claudette Riek & Deb McKee	Jeff Countermine & Jeff Gregory	Michelle Stevens & Kelli Moore
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Claudette Riek & Deb McKee	Jeff Countermine & Jeff Gregory	Michelle Stevens & Kelli Moore
<b>AV Volunteer</b>	Ryan Brewer	Tom Boink	Michael Gilman

**COMING UP**

Today 11:30 a.m. Congregational meeting in Fellowship Hall  
 4:00 p.m. Interfaith Advent service at Christ the King  
 Mon. Dec. 4 5-6:30 p.m. First Monday of the Month Free Community Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Men’s Study Group  
 Sun. Dec. 10 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 11:30 p.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall  
 3:00 p.m. “Living Nativity” on our front lawn  
 6:30 p.m. Fall Book Study here at ARC

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

- Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship Today
- Tomorrow is our Next First Monday of the Month Free Community Dinner
- Community Dinner Cancellation Policy
- ARC’s Living Nativity is Next Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m.
- ARC Needs Volunteers to Fill the Roles of 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 Community Dinner Are Out
- Prayer Corner

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP**

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for this important annual meeting. Items on the agenda include electing new members to our Consistory and a discussion on the proposed 2024 church budget. ARC committee representatives will be available to answer questions or supply more detail on their annual committee reports.

### **COME TO OUR DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT**

Be part of this great opportunity to enjoy a good meal and fellowship. On the menu is spaghetti with or without meat, salad, bread, and a cupcake dessert.

### **COMMUNITY DINNER CANCELLATION POLICY DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER**

ARC has decided to cancel dinners in severe weather when Guilderland schools cancel classes or close early. A message will also be placed on the church answering machine (518-861-8711) and Facebook page.

### **ARC'S LIVING NATIVITY IS NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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 very 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**

Be part of our Living Nativity on December 10. Call Natalie and John Drahzal at 518-872-9735, or email them at [drahz03@gmail.com](mailto:drahz03@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

### **LADIES POTLUCK DINNER DECEMBER 12**

It is Tuesday, December 12, 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 SUNDAY, 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.

