



Altamont Reformed Church
First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2024

Prelude

“Trio”

Josef Rheinberger
Audrey Daly-Gilman

Organist

THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

Call to Worship

Creator God, you made us from the dust of the earth.

You breathe your Spirit into us, and it gives us life.

Loving Christ, you walk with us on the dusty roads of our human frailty.

You give us courage to face our shadows, and it gives us hope.

Holy Spirit, you drove Jesus into the wilderness.

You draw us into our lives, and it gives us gratitude.

We worship you. We trust you. We follow you into the desert.

Bless us, that we may repent and believe the good news. Amen.

***Hymn: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” (Purple) #166**

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that our love is wounded.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

But your love is perfect.

**And so we open ourselves to your love:
to receive your forgiveness,
and to be transformed by your grace,**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-31 (New Testament p. 46)

Sermon

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
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.**

James 5:13-16

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: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" (Purple) #545**

***Choral Benediction**

***Benediction**

Postlude **“We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit”** **Dietrich Buxtehude**

** 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, FEBRUARY 18

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

Greeter & Counters.....Carol Ward & Jeff Counterline
Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
AV Support.....Tom Boink
Coffee Hour.....Betty Ketcham & Dave Glass

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	February 25	March 3	March 10
Greeters	Deb McKee & Laurie Warner	Craig & Barb Sargent	Lois Ginsburg & Marianne Baratier
Offering Counters	Deb McKee & Laurie Warner	Barb Sargent & Nancy Twaddell	Lois Ginsburg & Marianne Baratier
AV Volunteer	Mike Gilman	Ryan Brewer	Tom Boink
Coffee Hour	Noreen Novak & Barb Sargent	John & Natalie Drahzal	Angie & Charlie Stewart

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Joint Bible Study with Helderberg Reformed at Helderberg
Mon. Feb. 19 7:00 p.m. Men’s Study Group
Thurs. Feb. 22 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sun. Feb 25 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Joint Book Study with Helderberg Reformed at Helderberg

BIBLE 101: JOINT BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR MATTHEW STARTS TONIGHT

The Bible is a complex book, it is made up of several different genres, written by many hands, in three languages, over thousands of years. This seven week series will look at the *content* of our Bibles: genre, main themes, major characters, and overarching storylines. This will not be a Bible study in a traditional sense, but a study *about* the Bible. Our study will be structured with *A Guide to Bible Basics* by Tyler Mayfield, however, there is no book that is required, there will be plenty of handouts.

Our first session is tonight at 6:30pm at Helderberg Reformed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARCH 4 COMMUNITY DINNER

Thanks to all who volunteered for our January dinner. Check out the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office or email Nancy at nancymacarc@gmail.com. Join other volunteers as we provide an outreach to the community and enjoy a time of fellowship and fun.

“BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE” CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Our gifts help provide tents, blankets, hygiene kits and other supplies to refugees, people in shelters, and disaster victims in the US and around the world. Church World Service works in both immediate disaster relief and long-term recovery, as well as supporting ongoing community development programs. Visit www.cwsglobal.org to learn more about their work.

Donations of any amount are welcome, and for each \$10 received a paper heart will be affixed to the wall heart in the sanctuary. Our goal is \$1,000, filling the heart with 100 small ones. Checks should be made out to "ARC Benevolence" with "blankets" on the memo line. They can be given to a member of the Benevolence Committee after worship any Sunday during the campaign. Hearts may be dedicated in memory or in honor of someone who has brought love to your life.

TOTAL THE FIRST WEEK, \$730!! Thank you.

DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR CWS HYGIENE KITS

As part of the Church World Service Blanket and Tool Campaign, the Benevolence Committee is collecting items for hygiene kits distributed to refugees and disaster victims. **This Past Sunday they completed 30 kits. In order to fill incomplete kits, they still need:**

- hand towels (approximately 15" x 28") No fingertip, bath, dish or micro-fiber towels
- fingernail or toenail clippers

Please drop donations in the plastic bin in the Missions Corner of Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

RCA RECONSTRUCTION TEAM VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS SET

The first week of March is the time to join in one of the gatherings to hear the team share the updated recommendations it plans to bring to General Synod 2024. There are four dates and times available. Go to the homepage of the RCA website. Scroll down to “Latest News” and click on “Virtual Roundtable Meetings...” You will see the dates and times of the gatherings. To register, click on the one you want, and you will receive a link to that gathering. You can also read all about the team and the preceding gatherings etc. in preparation for this gathering.

SAFE THE DATE: WOMEN’S POTLUCK, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 6:00 P.M.

Details to follow.

PRAYERS FOR:

Claudette Riek, as she starts chemotherapy; **Jim & Hannah Pavoldi** are in Boston to begin Jim’s bone marrow transplant process with the first chemo infusion this past Friday and anticipated transplant infusion on the 21st, they thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers; **Denny Barger of Dreams Alive**, as he and several medical volunteers travel to Jordan this week on a medical mission trip.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Nancy Harrigan, sister of Jackie Gregory, at Spaulding Rehab Hospital in Boston; **Sher Seppa**; Kitt’s sister-in-law, **Linda Santy**, diagnosed with diabetes, related to her pancreatic cancer surgery; **Natalie**, daughter of Judi’s brother Jack; **Jan Davis**; **Sandra**, daughter of Lois and Ron Ginsburg; **Brian**, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier; **Emmit**, Diane Stedman’s grandson; Keith Baratier’s father **Paul**; **Curt Damhof**; **John & Marlene Williams**; **Patti Percoski**; **Paige and Eric Tooker** (Cystic Fibrosis); **Paula and Karen Eagan**; **Lois Wood**; **Becky Bryne**, neighbor of Deb and Steve Ritzko; **Barbara Ryan**; **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

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