



Altamont Reformed Church
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

Prelude

Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

Welcome

Call to Worship

From seed to shoot,

**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

From shoot to branch,

**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

Rooted and growing,

**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

Flourishing, blossoming,

**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

With wisdom and might,

**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

With justice and mercy,
**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**
With righteousness and faithfulness,
**God's kingdom is coming,
God's kingdom draws near.**

***Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (Purple) #12**

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you will for us, you dream for us, yet all too often your words fall on the stony ground of our selfishness; our good intentions wither in the glare of greed; our labors are half-hearted and unproductive; self-interest winds its way into our hearts and we leave ourselves open to attack. **Forgive us, Lord, our poor yield in the face of your generosity; refresh us and replant within us a yearning for you and a hunger for your world that justice and fairness might grow and flourish. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: From Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17
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 "Shelter in the Time of Storm" Charlesworth, Sankey,
Drennan**

**The Lord's my Rock, in Him I hide, a shelter in the time of storm; secure
in whatever troubles I find, shelter in the time of storm.**

Chorus: Oh, Jesus is my Rock in a weary land, a weary land, yes, a weary land. Oh, Jesus is my Rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm. A shade by day, defense by night, a shelter in the time of storm. I have no fear cause He is my light, a shelter in the time of storm. *Chorus* Well, the ragin' storms may round me beat, He's my shelter. I'll leave my safe retreat. He's my shelter. *Chorus*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Message

*Hymn: "Spirit of the Living God" (Purple) #288

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 (Old Testament pp.634 & pp.640,641)
Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith

We trust in you, God, Creator of all; you have made each living being as an utterance of your Word; you call us to be true to the Word in which you have created us.

We follow Jesus, who fulfilled his calling as your Anointed One and embodied your love. He fed the hungry and healed the broken. He taught your truth when others did not want to hear; he loved and forgave those whom others rejected. He stood against systems of injustice, and for his resistance he was killed. But you raised him from the dead, and he reigns with you, and his mercy is our only judge.

We live by the power of your Spirit, enabling us to forgive unendingly, to trust radically the power of resurrection, to serve the world humbly yet fiercely as the Body of Christ. We thank you and we give ourselves to you, that in all things we may be true to the Gospel, by your grace. 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: "Hope of the World" (Purple) #734**

***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, NOVEMBER 19

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.....Judi Dineen & Noreen Novak
Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
AV Support..... Ryan Brewer

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	November 26	December 3	December 10
Greeters	Natalie & John Drahzal	Kathy & Bill Johnson	Claudette Riek & Deb McKee
Offering Counters	Natalie Drahzal & Carol Lennebacker	Kathy Johnson & Linda Warnken	Claudette Riek & Deb McKee
AV Volunteer	Tom Boink	Michael Gilman	Ryan Brewer

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Special Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Faith Formation Com. in lounge
3-6pm Session on the Middle East Conflict at Lynnwood

Mon. Nov. 20 7:00 p.m. Men's Study Group

7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee meeting

Thurs. Nov. 23 Blessed Thanksgiving Day

Sun. Nov. 26 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 p.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Fall Altamont/Helderberg Book Group at ARC

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

- Second Session on the Middle East Conflict
- Volunteers Needed for Next First Monday of the Month Free Community Dinner
- Community Dinner Cancellation Policy
- Congregational Meeting after Worship Sunday, December 3
- Forms to Dedicate Poinsettia for Advent and Christmas due next Sunday
- Advent Night and Potluck Saturday, December 2
- Nominating Committee Needs Your Input
- ARC's Living Nativity is Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m.
- ARC Needs Volunteers to Fill the Roles of Angels and Shepherds
- Advent 2023 Worship Opportunities
- Ladies Potluck Dinner December 12, 6pm
- Altar Guild Volunteers Needed
- Prayer Corner

SECOND SESSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT TODAY

Recent armed conflict between Hamas and Israel has brought to the fore renewed questions about the State of Israel and the Palestinian territories. Questions such as: How did this all come to be? Why don't Palestinians just leave Israel alone? What is the reality actually like for Palestinians? Who is Hamas? What is Gaza and the West Bank? Hasn't this conflict been going on for centuries? And more. To work toward a true peace in the Holy Land, a fuller understanding is important that leads us beyond the simple good/bad dichotomy and that can help us avoid antisemitism and anti-arab sentiment as well as islamophobia.

Today, 3-6pm, the congregations of Altamont Reformed, Hamilton Union Presbyterian, Helderberg Reformed, and Lynnwood Reformed are invited to Lynnwood Reformed Church to learn more about the history of Israel/Palestine as well as more about what the reality of the situation looks like through

the lenses of two excellent documentaries. Each session will conclude with a discussion, and the second session will conclude with a Question & Answer with the Rev. John Paarlberg, retired RCA minister and regional coordinator for Churches for Middle East Peace.

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNITY DINNER

Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall list all the tasks needed for each meal. You can also email Nancy at the church office, nancymacarc@gmail.com. We have experienced volunteers who are glad to help newcomers. Our next dinner is Monday, December 4. We served 156 meals this month. A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: ARC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Our annual meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Needed documents will be sent out via email shortly before the meeting, and some hard copies will be available the day of the meeting. ARC committee representatives will be available to answer questions or supply more detail on their annual committee reports. Other items on the agenda include electing new members to our Consistory and a discussion on the projected 2024 church budget.

POINSETTIA FOR THE CHANCEL 2023

The flower committee is making a change in regard to the poinsettia plants in the sanctuary. We are replacing the live plants with silk arrangements. We will still take donations for dedication for loved ones, as in the past to defray the cost of the plants. Their names will be placed in the bulletin as done previously. The only difference is that you will not be taking one home, as in the past.

Your donation of \$10 will help pay for them this year. Cash or checks payable to John or Natalie Drazhal along with the reservation form with your dedication listed are due next Sunday, November 26. The forms are available in the sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall.

ARC ADVENT/POTLUCK NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 4-6 PM

Help us prepare for Advent. Join us as we hang the greens and decorate the sanctuary and church building. There will also be an activity opportunity available.

Then share in a Potluck Dinner. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to let us know how many people to expect, and what you will share at the potluck. You can also call the church office or email Nancy at nancymacarc@gmail.com. Please invite a friend! The first Sunday of Advent is December 3.