



Altamont Reformed Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2023

Prelude

“Hymn to the Setting Sun”

Frederic Lacey

Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

Welcome

Call to Worship

God of the exiled, the alien, the stranger:

you are our God and we are your people.

God of the hungry, the poor, the widowed:

you are our God and we are your people.

God of the vulnerable, the powerless, the side-lined:

you are our God and we are your people.

God of mercy, justice, faithfulness:

you are our God and we are your people.

Where you stay, we will stay; where you go, we will go,

for you are our God and we are your people.

*Hymn: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Purple) #475

Prayer of Confession

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us come honestly before God.

We recall those times when we have been most in harmony with God's love, and we give thanks. (silence)

We recall those times when we have been most out of harmony with God's love, and we open our hearts to God's mercy. (silence)

By the grace we know in Christ Jesus, God forgives us entirely, redeems us and sets us free to live by the power of the Spirit of love, in the name of Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: John 3:16-17

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

“Only Love Can Answer Why”

Beall/Carter

Only love can answer why, only love can say how a Lamb, a perfect Lamb, could give his life away. Only love can answer why, only love can say.

Only love can answer why, only love can see how a Lamb, a perfect Lamb, could die on Calvary. Only love, only love can answer, only love can see.

Only love can answer why, only love can tell how a Lamb, a perfect Lamb, could love me, oh, so well oh, so well. Love can answer why, only love can tell.

Only love can answer why, only love can know how a Lamb, a perfect lamb, could pay the debt I owe. Only love can answer why, only love, only love, only love can know, only love can know.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Message

***Hymn**: "Just As I Am, without One Plea" (Purple) #442

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1-19a (Old Testament p. 241)

Sermon

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, who is Love, whose love is unconditional, perfect, absolute and eternal.

We follow Jesus, the Beloved of God, who embodied God's love. In love he taught the curious, fed the hungry and healed the broken. In love he suffered our evil, and was crucified. And in love God raised him from the dead. Christ lives among us still in the eternal power of love.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of love, the love of God flowing through us for the world. In that love we seek a world of justice and mercy; and we live lives of forgiveness, gratitude and courage. The Spirit of Love gives us life that is eternal, which is our power, and our hope and our joy. 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: "For All the Faithful Women" (Purple) #324**

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Voluntary in E Minor”

John Stanley

** 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, OCTOBER 15

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 and Counters.....Angie Stewart & Michelle Stevens
Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
AV Support.....Tom Boink

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	October 22	October 29	November 5
Greeters	Dan & Christine Capuano	Cheryl Osterhout & Rick Flaherty	Jim & Kristy Dame
Offering Counters	Christine Capuano & Marianne Baratier	Rick Flaherty & Pam Fialkoff	Jim Dame & Nancy Twaddell
AV Volunteer	Michael Gilman	Ryan Brewer	Tom Boink

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Faith Formation Brainstorming

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

Mon. Oct. 16 7:00 p.m. Men’s Study Group

Wed. Oct. 18 7:00 p.m. Consistory meeting

Thurs. Oct. 19 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Fri. Oct. 20-Sun. Oct. 22 P & J Food Pantries Collection

Sun. Oct. 22 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 p.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Worship Life Committee meeting

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

A FAITH FORMATION BRAINSTORMING SESSION TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

As our new faith Formation Committee begins its planning, we are inviting all interested people to join us today during the coffee hour to brainstorm new ideas for organizing our efforts to grow our faith. This is a one-time event and your presence would be most welcome and helpful.

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY COLLECTION STARTS THIS FRIDAY

This collection supports the Altamont and Guilderland Food Pantries. It will run Friday, October 20 through Sunday, October 22. Bins will be located in the back parking lot entryway and at the top of the back staircase under the bulletin board. Baskets will also be located in the front of the sanctuary on Sunday, October 22.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE RESPONDS TO CURRENT DISASTERS AND MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

As is our custom, the Benevolence Committee has placed buckets in the sanctuary to support CWS ongoing efforts to provide relief for flood and earthquake victims and those suffering in the Middle East crisis. Checks may be made out to ARC Benevolence with "CWS" on the memo line.

"MEAL FOR PEACE" EVENT POSTPONED

The Sunday, October 22 coffee hour event will be rescheduled. This effort will highlight and support those displaced in South Sudan due to conflict and record-breaking floods. Watch future bulletins and Highlights for a new date.

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR NEXT COMMUNITY DINNER

Volunteering for our dinners isn't just work, it is also fun, and a great way to meet people. Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall list all the tasks needed for each meal. We have experienced volunteers who are glad to help newcomers. Your commitment is just for the current month, but don't be surprised if you sign up again. Our next dinner is Monday, November 6.

AS THE COLD AND FLU SEASON APPROACHES

As we enter into the cold weather months, please be mindful of normal preventative practices such as washing your hands and staying home if you're sick.

PRAYERS FOR: Jan Davis, who suffered a stroke this week; Peg Jackson, Kitt's sister-in-law, who has decided not to continue cancer treatments

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR: Jim Pavoldi; Deb Ritzko's brother, Bob Haines; Keith Baratier's father, Paul; Brian Cummings, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier; Lori, sister of Angie Stewart; Barbara Ryan

THOSE WITH LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES: Patti Percoski; Eric Tooker; Paula and Karen Eagan; Lois Wood

IN LONG-TERM CARE: Clara and Ralph Lasselle in Kingsway Community Assisted Living; Jeanne Picard-Fish at the Atria Guilderland; 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 Altamont Reformed Church

CONSISTORY

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ELDERS

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