



Altamont Reformed Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

Prelude

“Prelude Modal”

Jean Langlais
Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

WE GATHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

Votum

Welcome

Call to Worship

God of love, we seek healing: wholeness for our bodies.

Come to us, enfold us in your grace, and send us forth, renewed.

We seek hope: fruitfulness for our lives.

Come to us, enfold us in your grace, and send us forth, renewed.

We seek courage: power to carry your grace into the world.

Come to us, enfold us in your grace, and send us forth, renewed. Amen.

***Hymn: “The God of Abraham Praise” (Purple) #49**

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess how often we do not pay attention to those around us, do not welcome those who pass by us, and how often we do not see the messengers that you have sent to us. Open our minds and hearts to notice you, and to pay attention to your grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 32:1-2
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 “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” Peace / Rasley

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my wary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may
richer, fuller be.

O Light that foll’west all my way, I yield my flick’ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day may
brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that sleekest me thru pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee,
I trace the rainbow thru the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that
morn shall tearless be.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

Children’s Message

***Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation” (Purple) #463**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (Old Testament p. 14, pp. 16 &17)

Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith

We love and trust God, Eternal Creator, the Source of all Being and the giver of the laws of life, whose word of love is unchanging, though our understanding is imperfect and incomplete.

We follow Jesus, God's Christ, who embodied God's love, who taught and healed, who enacted God's law of love in new and radical ways. He gave himself completely in love; he was crucified; yet God raised him from death, transforming the law, and even life and death. He sets us free and leads us in lives of radical self-giving.

We live by the Holy Spirit, the living breath of God in us, who empowers us to live lives of grace and compassion, trusting in the power of forgiveness, the blessing of community, the reality of resurrection and the coming of God's Reign of mercy and justice. In all, we give God thanks, and we give God our lives. Amen.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

LITANY OF INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

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

Prayer Over the Oil

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.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE

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: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" (Purple) #451

*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, SEPTEMBER 17

PLEASE SPEAK TO A GREETER ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

WORKSHEETS AND SACK COLORING PAGES FOR CHILDREN are available in the front of the sanctuary.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are in the back of the sanctuary. They are small and easy to use.

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.....Lois Ginsburg & Deb McKee
 Side Door Greeter.....Sallie Townsend
 AV Support.....Ryan Brewer

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	September 24	October 1	October 8
Greeters	Natalie & John Drahzal	Claudette Riek & Deb Ritzko	Craig & Barb Sargent
Offering Counters	John Drahzal & Nancy Twaddell	Claudette Riek & Deb Ritzko	Barb Sargent & Tracy Mayer
AV Volunteer	Tom Boink	Michael Gilman	Ryan Brewer

COMING UP

Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; Benevolence and Worship Life Committee meetings

Wed. Sept. 20 7:00 p.m. Consistory meeting

Thurs. Sept. 21 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sat. Sept. 23 9-3pm Women’s Retreat

Sun. Sept 24 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

THE FALL 2023 ALTAMONT-HELDERBERG REFORMED BOOK GROUP STARTS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 AT 6:30 P.M. AT ARC

This fall's study is *Kneeling with Giants, Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers* by Gary Neal Hansen. This book will guide us on a 10 week journey of an invitation to a deeper connection to God by practicing different methods of prayer. Participants are invited to acquire books from their favorite bookseller or library, and there are some funds available if the book cost is in any way a barrier.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The ARC retreat will be held this Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. If you have signed up and have not sent or paid your \$10 registration fee to Kitt Jackson, please do so as soon as possible to confirm your participation. Checks can be made out to Kitt Jackson and mailed to 10 Rita Court, Delmar, NY 12054. You can also put a note and your check in Kitt's mailbox at church. The day of the retreat please bring a Bible, your journal or notebook, and a pen.

ARC COMMUNITY DINNERS RETURN MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Our very popular First Monday of the Month Free Community Dinner returns October 2. We serve 5:00-6:30 p.m. Don't miss a chance to enjoy good food and fellowship. Invite a friend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR COMMUNITY DINNERS

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.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP IS BACK AND CAN USE MORE VOLUNTEERS

Coffee hour doesn't just happen. We have a team of dedicated volunteers who make coffee and drinks, set out the "goodies", and set up and clean up after coffee hour. Our team operates on a rotating basis. The more people who volunteer to join the team, or even pick a week or two to host a coffee hour, means our team members get a break. If you are interested in joining the team or volunteering to host a week or two, see any of our team members: John and Natalie Drahzal, Dave Glass, Noreen Novak, Barb Sargent, or Angie and Charlie Stewart. Thank you.

"GOODIES" NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR

We are going to do a repeat of last season and ask individuals to donate food items for any coffee hour. They can be homemade or purchased and need to be plated. If you bring in something that contains peanuts or peanut oil, please indicate this. Thank you.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO OUR CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir is starting a new season. New members are always welcome! Talk to Stephanie Brewer if you have any questions.

SAVING FOR PAVING GOAL ACCOMPLISHED!

Thanks to a second very generous donation and the donations of so many we reached our \$40,000 goal! We now have a safe and newly paved and marked parking lot that will serve us and our community for a long time.

REQUESTS AND UPDATES

Please call the church office or email Nancy at nancymacarc@gmail.com with any changes to:

- Prayer Corner: If you have a name to add to our prayer corner list, or an update
- If you have moved or have changed your phone or cell number, or email address

Thank you!

PRAYERS FOR:

Natalie's sister, **Carolann**, who is doing much better; Keith Baratier's father, **Paul**, fell and was transferred to Albany Med from upstate New York, with serious heart issues; **Peg Jackson**, Kitt's sister-in-law; **Brian Cummings**, brother-in-law of Marianne Baratier; and **Lori**, sister of Angie Stewart, all in treatments; **Jim Pavoldi**; **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

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