



Altamont Reformed Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 21, 2021

WE GATHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

Welcome

Lenten Candle Lighting

Lord Jesus, as we walk with you through these forty days, let your light shine into our hearts.

Brighten the darkness of our lives and show us where we need to repent.

In our thoughts, words, and actions, teach us to rely on you.

Renew us as your people, that we may carry your light to the world.

Prayer of Confession

God of all history and eternity, whom we call upon even now,
you are eternal, unchangeable, infinite, and almighty.

You are completely wise, just, and good – and the overflowing source of all goodness.

We thank you for your covenant, which is never broken,
and your love, which is never measurable.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities and cleanse us from our sin.

For we know our transgressions and our sins are ever before us.
Against you, and you alone, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
Create in us a clean heart, O God. Put a new and right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and do not take away your Holy Spirit,
restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Law of God

Ministry of Music

“Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days”

Claudia F. Hernaman

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE

Announcements

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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, forever. Amen.

Choral Benediction

Benediction

LOOKING FORWARD

Sunday, March 28: 10:30 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary* and on Zoom. The homepage of our website (altamontreformed.org) has information on how to attend in either format.

Everyone is warmly invited to these Holy Week worship opportunities

Thurs., April 1: **Maundy Thursday** Service of Tenebrae and Communion, both in the sanctuary* and on Zoom, 7 p.m.

Fri., April 2: **Good Friday** service outdoors at ARC, with procession of the crosses to St. John's Lutheran Church, 1 p.m.

Sun., April 4: **Easter Sunrise Service** at the Rau Farm, 6:30 a.m.

Easter Worship Service both in the sanctuary* and on Zoom, 10:30 a.m.

*Seating in the sanctuary is limited due to COVID restrictions. Please follow this procedure to reserve space for your family.

- ◆ Contact the church office by phone (518-861-8711) or email (nancymacarc@gmail.com) between Monday morning and Thursday afternoon.

- ◆ Please provide your name and the number of people in your household who are planning to attend the service on the following Sunday.
- ◆ Reservations must be made week by week; you won't be able to save a place for future Sundays.
- ◆ The office will notify you if the seating limit has been reached. If you are not contacted, your reservation has been accepted.

Guidelines for Worship in the Sanctuary

In order to be safe and follow state requirements, please observe the following during our worship service. Thank you for patience, caring for each other, and keeping each of us safe.

- ◆ Please use a hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary
- ◆ Be sure to bring a face covering and wear it while you are in the church building. Maintain a physical distance of six feet from others.
- ◆ In the sanctuary, some pews will be blocked off. Seating will be marked on the remaining pews. Choose an appropriate space. Households may sit together. If there are more than two people in your household, ask a greeter/usher about the best place for your group to sit.
- ◆ Only use the accessible bathroom facility adjacent to Fellowship Hall. Please do not go downstairs or enter Fellowship Hall. This will limit the spaces for cleaning purposes.
- ◆ Please enter and exit the sanctuary using the front and side doors. The back parking lot doors will be locked. Please do not remain after the service and remember to distance while exiting.
- ◆ Feel free to bring your own Bible from home and a cushion for comfortable sitting. There are no hymnals or Bibles in the pews and we have removed the pew cushions.

- ◆ Please do not enter the sanctuary if you have a fever, cough, cold, headache, or have difficulty breathing.
- ◆ Offering boxes will be located at each entrance. Please deposit your offering in one of the boxes while you are entering or leaving the church. Offering plates will not be passed during the service.

Worship Services Continue on Zoom

ARC will continue to offer the virtual option of Zoom services each week. Use the link posted on the homepage of our website. It is the same link we've been using for the past months. Our weekly bulletin is available as a download and usually is available by Friday afternoon.

What if Worship and Church Activity Plans Change?

If reopening plans change, we will make every effort to keep you informed. We will communicate through emails, mailed letters, the *ARC Lite* newsletter, Facebook, the ARC website, and weekly worship bulletin notices. Our church office is usually open from 8 a.m. to noon on weekdays if you have a question or concern.

New Bible Study Begins Wednesday, April 7

Pastor Matthew begins *Five Months on the Book of James* at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. The class will be conducted on Zoom. Check out the homepage of our website for the zoom and phone links. You do not have to sign up for this class.

Volunteer for Our Annual Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 17

Join members of the Property Committee from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for our annual spring cleanup day. We'll spruce up the church grounds and do a little spring cleaning. If possible, please bring a pair of gloves and a rake. E-mail Greg Goutos at ggoutos@nycap.rr.com or call him at 518-495-0148 if you're planning to come.

Easter Offering Envelopes

Donations received in the special offering envelopes marked "Easter" will be divided between Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry and a special gift to Janelle and Felipe Silva, our missionaries in Romania, to help fund their after-school educational program.

Thank You to All Who Gave to Blankets+ Campaign

Thanks to all who gave so generously to support CWS efforts to supply blankets, hygiene kits, tents, COVID education and other tools to refugees and those suffering from natural disasters. For over 30 years ARC has supported this important program. Visit www.cwsglobal.org to learn more about the life-saving work of Church World Service in some 30 countries around the world.

Our final total: \$1,950 representing 195 hearts!

Dedication this week: For all the healthcare workers and scientists across the globe working to end the pandemic

Easter Flower Orders Due on Wednesday, March 24

Use [this link](#) to download an order form, which also is available on the homepage of our ARC website and in the March *ARC Lite*. All plants are \$12 and will be in 6” pots. **Orders are due Wednesday, March 24.**

Recordings of Worship Services

Listen to or download recordings from a link on the website home page under “Service Recordings.”

Weekly Offerings

We will receive offerings placed in the offering boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary, mailed to the church office, and donated online. Check out the homepage of our website for all the information you need to make an online offering.

Altamont Reformed Church
Statement of Purpose

The Altamont Reformed Church is a community of Christian believers called by God to be part of the living Body of Christ, to worship God our King and to obey Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Enabled by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to study the Bible and live the Good News. We endeavor to serve and care for each other and to reach out to the world, sharing God's love and inviting all to join in joyful discipleship.

2021 Consistory

Rev. Matthew J. van Maastricht

Elders

Bill Johnson
Clara Lasselle
Tulla Pangburn
Steve Simmons
Angie Stewart

Deacons

David Lasselle
Deb Ritzko
Barb Sargent
Nancy Webb

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