



# Altamont Reformed Church

Palm Sunday  
March 28, 2021

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**Prelude**

**“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**

Audrey Daly, Organist

**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.**

*Virtual Choir*

**“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”**

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem range;  
To Jesus who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,  
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud;  
The Lord of men and angels rode on in lowly state,  
Nor scored that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,  
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven, our King;  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

### *Prayer of Confession*

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing.

**Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.  
Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are,  
trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken,  
to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon:* Based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17

### *The Law of God*

### *Ministry of Music*

### **“Filled With Excitement”**

Ruben Ruiz Avila

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets. There in the distance they begin to see, there on a donkey comes the Savior Christ.

### *Refrain:*

From every corner a thousand voices sing praise to the One who comes in the name of God.

Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise, our triumphant song of joy:  
“Hosanna, hosanna to Christ! Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!”

As in that entrance to Jerusalem, hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,  
To our Redeemer who still calls today, asks us to follow with our love and faith. (*Refrain*)

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

*Prayer for Illumination*

*Scripture Text:* Mark 11:1-11

*Sermon*

### WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE

*Interlude*

“The Lord’s Prayer”

*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*

*Postlude*

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

### WELCOME!

Worship looks different, but we join in celebration as we worship together in person or in spirit through our Zoom space.

### VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Ushers/Greeters ..... Judi Dineen & Jeff Countermine  
Side Door Usher/Greeter ..... Sallie Townsend  
Offering Counters ..... Judi Dineen & Jeff Countermine

## FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	<b>April 4</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>April 18</b>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	Natalie & John Drahzal	Clara Lasselle & Jeff Countermine	Hal & Mary Hughes
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Natalie Drahzal & Sallie Townsend	Clara Lasselle & Jeff Countermine	Hal Hughes & Angie Stewart

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Thurs., April 1:** **Maundy Thursday** Service with 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](mailto: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.

### ***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.

### ***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](mailto:ggoutos@nycap.rr.com) or call him at 518-495-0148 if you're planning to come.

### ***CROP Hunger Walk Registration is Open***

The 40th anniversary CROP Hunger Walk in Albany, now known as the John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk, will take place on May 2. The Walk will be virtual, which means that participants are being urged to register online and raise funds that way. ARC already has a team registered, so if anyone would like to join the team or make a donation to the team or one of the walkers, visit [www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny). Twenty-five percent of the money raised goes to local pantries, including Altamont and Guilderland. The rest is used by Church World Service and its partners for hunger relief and development projects all around the world. If you have questions, contact Kitt Jackson at 518-439-9771 or email her at [kitt82@verizon.net](mailto:kitt82@verizon.net).

## ***Recordings of Worship Services***

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

## ***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.

## ***Our Palm Branches This Morning are Eco-Palms***

At least half of the farmers in central Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting palm fronds, and more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds. The University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) is working together with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood to certify palms harvested from the forests of Mexico and Guatemala for sale to Christian congregations in the USA and Europe. We are part of a growing number of Albany Synod and other RCA congregations who support this initiative.

## ***Updates Needed***

Because we do not see each other on a regular basis, it is important that you email Nancy McNiven ([nancymacarc@gmail.com](mailto:nancymacarc@gmail.com)) or call the church office with updates to our prayer corner, changes to addresses and phone numbers, and requests for our *ARC Lite* newsletter via email. Thank you!

*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

**Altamont Reformed Church**

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