



Altamont Reformed Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Prelude

“Prelude Modal” (Jean Langlais)
Audrey Daly, Organist

WE GATHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

Welcome

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 91:2; Romans 10:9, 13

Let us worship God.

He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Let us confess with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths, worshiping him in spirit and in truth.

Prayer of Confession

God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle.

We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious, we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence.

We are not willing to take the risks and make the sacrifices that love requires.

Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 44:21-22

The Law of God

*Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*Gloria Patri**

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 without end. Amen.

Virtual Choir

“How Blest We Are”

How blest we are as children of a God so good and true,
To understand his moving hand and love for me and you.

How blest we are as children of a God whose love is real,
Enough to touch, each one of us is part of him I feel.

I honor thee, I honor thee to whom my love is vowed.
How blessed be forever we are bound to him as now.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Text: 1 John 4:7-21

Sermon

Interlude

“Abide With Me”

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Meaning of the Sacrament

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving (see last page of bulletin)

Words of Institution

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE

Thanksgiving After Communion

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his table, let us praise God’s holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits –
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,

who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, and will also give us all things with him.
Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen.

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.

*Benediction**

Postlude

“Basse et Dessus de Trompette” (Clerambault)

*Indicates the congregation stands, if able

VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Ushers/Greeters Judi Dineen & Clara Lasselle
Side Door Usher/Greeter Sallie Townsend
Offering Counters..... Judi Dineen & Clara Lasselle
AV Support..... Tom Boink

FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

	May 9	May 16	May 23
Ushers / Greeters	Pam Fialkoff & Jeff Counterline	Barb & Craig Sargent	Cheryl Osterhout & Rick Flaherty
Offering Counters	Pam Fialkoff & Jeff Counterline	Barb Sargent & Noreen Novak	Cheryl Osterhout & Angie Stewart
AV Support	Nancy Webb	Open	Open

LOOKING FORWARD

Today: Memorial Service for Porter Bidleman (see below); Virtual CROP Walk

Mon., May 3: Men's Study Group, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Wed., May 5: Bible Study with Pastor Matthew, 7 p.m. on Zoom

Thur., May 6: Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary

Sat., May 8-Mon., May 10: Baby food collection for Altamont Food Pantry

Sun., May 9: Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and on Zoom

Memorial Service for Porter Bidleman

A Memorial for Porter Bidleman will be held at the Reid Northrup Grove at the Altamont Fairgrounds. There will be a gathering time from 2-3 p.m. and a service to follow at 3 p.m. Please feel free to bring a chair if you like and pray for good weather!

Bible Study on Wednesday

Pastor Matthew continues Five Months on the Book of James at 7 p.m. We will be studying the second chapter of James if you want to read it before the session. The class is 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.

Virtual CROP Hunger Walk Today

The 40th anniversary walk in Albany, now known as the John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk, is virtual again. Since the walk is virtual, participants can walk today or any other day that's convenient, as long as they turn in funds they raise by the end of the month. 25% 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.

Visit www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny to make an online donation to our ARC team or to join the team. Our team of Kitt Jackson, Nancy Webb, Angie Stewart, and Chris Tucker has already raised over \$1,765. You can give a check to any of them, put a check in Kitt's box at church, or mail it to her at 10 Rita Ct., Delmar, NY 12054. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP.

Mothers Day Food Collection

Donations of baby food, formulas, and juices will be collected on Saturday, May 8 through Monday,

May 10. We will collect at the worship service on May 9. Bins will be located near the front and side entrances to the sanctuary. You can place items before or after the service. Because we have limited seating in the service, we are extending the collection through Monday. Bins will be located at the top of the back staircase under the bulletin board by the kitchen door, and a bin will be located in the back parking lot entryway. Our office is usually open weekdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Thank you!

Altamont Memorial Day Parade

ARC will be represented in the Altamont Memorial Day parade with a float celebrating our First Monday Community Dinners. Our Congregational Life Committee invites you to watch the parade and support our participation. The parade begins at 2 p.m. and is part of a full-day celebration.

Volunteers are needed for this event. If you have ever volunteered for our community dinner, our CLC Committee invites you to walk next to our float or sit on it for the Memorial Day Parade. Please email Nancy McNiven at nancymacarc@gmail.com or call her at the church office if you would like to participate. Give the number participating and whether you would prefer to walk next to the float or sit on it. You will need to be at the Altamont Fairgrounds at 1 p.m. Our float placement in the parade has not yet been determined.

Join Us for Worship on Zoom

ARC will continue to offer the virtual option of Zoom services each week. It is the same link already posted on the homepage of our website. Our weekly bulletin is available to view or download. The bulletin will usually be available by Friday afternoon.

Please Reserve Your Space in the Sanctuary

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.

Weekly Offering

You can send your regular offering via the internet. ARC has set up an account with PayPal Nonprofit for this purpose. A link on the home page of our website under *Give Your Offering Online* will direct you to the donation page that provides all the information you need to send your offering.

You also can mail your offering to the church office or drop it off during our normal office hours. The office is usually open on weekdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

Recordings of Sunday Sermons

Audio or video recordings of sermons are available on the home page at www.altamontreformed.org under *Sermon Recordings*. All sermons since the sanctuary reopened on March 28 are in video format.

Staying Informed About Church Activities

We will make every effort to keep you informed. We will communicate through emails, mailed letters, the ARC Lite newsletter, the Facebook page, our Altamont Reformed Church website, and weekly worship bulletin notices. Our church office is usually open 8 a.m.-noon weekdays if you have a question or concern or if you need to be added to the mailing list.

Guidelines for Worship in the Sanctuary

To be safe and to follow state requirements, please observe the following during our worshipservice. 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.

Altamont Reformed Church

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Office: 518-861-8711 ♦ Pastor Matthew J. van Maastricht: x301 (office);

518- 595-5125 (parsonage) ♦ Email: pastormatthew.arc@gmail.com

Church email: info@altamontreformed.org ♦ Church website: www.altamontreformed.org

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord, our Creator, almighty and everlasting God!

You created the heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us men and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God.

With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the world.

In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died!

Christ has risen!

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into him Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that thy whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into thy kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.