A close-up of a church steeple

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**Altamont Reformed Church**

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 7, 2024**

**Prelude “Infant Holy” Arr. by R.W. Thygerson**

**Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist**

**The Liturgy of Approach**

**Votum**

**Call to Worship**

May the light of God’s love push back the darkness.

**We come to the light from the four corners of the earth,**

**from the north, from the south,**

**from the east, and from the west.**

But we are all one in Jesus Christ

**We come from many nations and many cultures.**

But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

**We come seeking the light that guides us to life.**

But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

**Let us lift up our many voices and praise the God of all people.**

**\*Hymn: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (Purple) #610**

**Prayer of Confession**

God of light,

we have been so blind when truth has been so clear.

When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind.

When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part.

When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way.

**Forgive our dim apprehension of love’s clear leading.**

**Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see,**

**Through the light that lingers when all else fails,**

**Even the bright Morning Star of our faith,**

**Jesus the Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**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 “Come to the Table of the Lord” Albrecht/Althouse**

**Come to the table where the bread is broken. Come to the table where the word of God is spoken.**

**And take this bread into your life as a token. Come to the table of the Lord.**

**Come to the table and drink this wine. Come to the table believing in this sign.**

**Renew your spirit with this food divine. Come to the table of the Lord.**

**Hungry and thirsty, we come Lord to Thee. We humbly bow on bended knee.**

**Come to the table and dwell in God’s light. Come to the table and kneel before His sight.**

**Join in communion and know His holy might. Come to the table of the Lord. Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word and sacrament**

**Children’s Message**

**\*Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (Purple) #435**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-22 (New Testament p. 36)**

**Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We trust in God, Creator of all that is, whose light guides us and whose grace extends to all people of the world.**

**We follow Jesus, the Christ of God, Light of the world, who is the ruler of our hearts, before whom we bow in adoration and reverence, to whom we offer the gifts of our hands and hearts. Jesus loved people and healed them, and taught the way of true wisdom. Though many would make him king, he was not a ruler of a nation but the Prince of Peace. Earthly kings were threatened by him, and crucified him, but he was raised from the dead, sovereign even over life itself.**

**We live by the Holy Spirit, whose light is a star that guides us, whose grace gives us gifts to offer the world, whose companionship makes us one with peoples of all nations, tribes and traditions. In the power of that Spirit we devote ourselves to love and justice, for the sake of Christ, the sovereign of our hearts.**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Meaning of the Sacrament**

**Invitation**

**Great Thanksgiving (Insert)**

**Communion Hymn: “Here, O Our Lord, We See You” (Purple) #517**

**vv. 1-2, 5**

**Words of Institution**

**LITERGY OF RESPONSE**

**Thanksgiving After Communion (Insert)**

**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**

**Prayers of the People followed by 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.**

**\*Closing Hymn: “Will You Come and Follow Me” (Purple) #726**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction**

**Postlude   “Tidings of Comfort and Joy” Arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz**

\* *indicates the congregation stands, if able.*

**WELCOME** as we worship together. Please join us for coffee hour fellowship after our worship service.

**The flowers that grace the chancel are given by Pam and David Fialkoff “in memory of Gloria Santagata, our beloved mom."**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

**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………………………………………………………………………. Craig & Barb Sargent

Counters……………………………………………………………Barb Sargent & Nancy Twaddell

Side Door Greeter…………………………………………………………………..Sallie Townsend

AV Support………………………………………………………………………………Tom BoinkCoffee Hour…………………………………………………………………John & Natalie Drahzal

**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **January 14** | **January 21** | **January 28** |
| **Greeters** | Dan & Christine Capuano | Judi Dineen &  Noreen Novak | John & Natalie  Drahzal |
| **Offering Counters** | Dan Capuano &  Laurie Warner | Judi Dineen &  Noreen Novak | John Drahzal &  Tracy Mayer |
| **AV Volunteer** | Michael Gilman |  |  |
| **Coffee Hour** | Angie & Charlie Stewart | Betty Ketcham &  Dave Glass | Noreen Novak &  Barb Sargent |

**COMING UP**

**Today 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall**

**Mon. Jan. 8 7:00 p.m. Men’s Study Group**

**Wed. Jan. 10 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal**

**Fri. Jan. 12-Sun. Jan. 14 Collection for Local Food Pantries**

**Sun. Jan. 14 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour; Faith Formation meeting in the lounge; Benevolence**

**Committee in Fellowship Hall**

**JANUARY COLLECTION FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES**

ARC will be receiving donations of oatmeal, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate Friday, January 12 through Sunday, January 14. Bins will be located at the top of the back staircase under the bulletin board, in the back parking lot entryway, and in the sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

**THANK YOU:**

* To all who gave so generously to our Christmas Adopt a Family and mitten & scarf tree
* To those who gave to the special Christmas offering which supported our Deacons Fund and the Cornerstone Campus Christian Ministry at UAlbany
* To the dedicated volunteers of our First Monday of the Month Free Community Dinner who made the New Year’s Day Dinner possible

**IN CASE OF SEVERE WEATHER ON ANY SUNDAY MORNING...**

During the winter months in case weather circumstances necessitate the cancellation of worship:

* A message will be placed on the church’s answering machine (518-861-8711) announcing the cancellation.
* Members of Consistory will make the effort to call the homes of individuals and families who typically worship on Sunday mornings.
* An email will go out to individuals and families who typically worship on Sunday mornings.
* A sign about the cancellation will be posted on the parking lot door to the church building.

**THANK YOU LETTER FROM ALTAMONT EMEMENTARY SCHOOL**

When you give donations to the Deacons Fund, your support enables outreach and giving like this:

“Dear Debbie and the deacons at the Altamont Reformed Church, thank you so much for partnering with Altamont Elementary School for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your support makes a true impact on families. During Thanksgiving your support/donations provided meals for 17 people, including 7 adults and 10 Children! This Christmas your donation helped 5 adults and 12 children-that is a total of 12 adults and 22 children! These families are so thankful and appreciative. Here at AES, we appreciate it too. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Sincerely, Deidre Harwick”

**HELP US UPDATE OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY**

January is a great time to update our directory and add new names. A copy of our present hard copy directory is located in Fellowship Hall. If you are already in our directory, please take a moment and make any changes, additions, or indicate, “same”. If you are not in the directory and would like to be added, please fill out the form provided. We’d appreciate street as well as PO Box numbers. Changes and additions will be added to our online directory.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SHOVEL CHURCH SIDEWALKS AND STEPS TWO SUNDAYS, JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 4.**

Greg Goutos is on vacation these Sundays. He faithfully sees that these two tasks are done each Sunday in winter. If you can step in to do this on either or both of these Sundays, please contact him at 518-495-0148 or email him at [ggoutos@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ggoutos@nycap.rr.com). Thank you.

**PRAYERS FOR:**

**Nancy,** sister of Jackie Gregory, who had brain surgery on December 29 and needs all our prayers for her and her family; Kitt’s sister-in-law **Linda Santy** recovering from a broken nose from a recent fall

**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:**

Angie’s sister **Lori**; **Jan Davis**; **Gail Kidder**, sister of Deb McKee; **Sandra**, daughter of Lois and Ron Ginsburg; **Jim Pavoldi**; **Brian**, brother-in-law of MarianneBaratier; **Emmit**, Diane Stedman’s grandson; Keith Baratier’sfather **Paul**; **Curt Damhof**

**THOSE WITH LONG-TERM HEALTH ISSUES: Patti Percoski**; **Paige and Eric Tooker**

(Cystic Fibrosis); **Paula and Karen Eagan**; **Lois Wood**; **Becky Bryne**, neighbor of Deb and Steve Ritzko; **Barbara Ryan**

**IN LONG-TERM CARE: Clara and Ralph Lasselle** in Kingsway Community Assisted Living; **Jeanne Picard-Fish** at Daughters of Sarah; **Joan Whinnery** at Judson Meadows Ass’t Living in Glenville

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES**

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](mailto:nancymacarc@gmail.com) Altamont Reformed Church

***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.***

**CONSISTORY**

Rev. Matthew J. van Maastricht

Elders Deacons

Bill Johnson Jan Davis

Carole deForest Carol Lennebacker

Claudette Riek Noreen Novak

Angie Stewart Deb Ritzko

Laurie Warner Barb Sargent

Altamont Reformed Church

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**Church website**: [www.altamontreformed.org](http://www.altamontreformed.org)