



Altamont Reformed Church  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost  
November 16, 2025

Prelude

“Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling”

J.S. Bach

Audrey Daly-Gilman,

Organist

**THE LITURGY OF APPROACH**

Votum

**Call to Worship**

In search of light in times of darkness  
**and consolation in times of struggle,**  
as we celebrate in times of joy  
**and rejoice in God’s presence,**  
let us worship  
the Wonderful Counsellor,  
**the Prince of Wholeness,**  
the Bringer of Peace.  
**Let us worship God.**

Opening Prayer

**\*Hymn: “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (Purple) #385**

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we know that you are rich in mercy to all who call on you. Hear us now as we Lord God, you invite us out of darkness into the light of your love.

We confess today that sometimes we prefer the darkness.  
We prefer what we know, we resist the less familiar  
but still you call us and promise us something different.  
God forgive our lack of faith that keeps us from wholeheartedly following you,  
our lack of vision that keeps us from imagining what you lay before us,  
our lack of hope that keeps us from expecting greatness.  
**Forgive us, Lord, and open us up to possibility,  
open us up to trusting and to daring to believe that  
still, you have the power,  
still, in the face of all that speaks otherwise,  
you have the power to make all things new.  
And God, as you awaken that trust in us,  
awaken too a boldness to join you  
in that kingdom work. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon: from Isaiah 49:15, 66:13**  
**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**

**“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”  
(Blue Hymnal p. 466)**

**Wesley/Hayes**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Children’s Message**

**\*Hymn: “The Word Made Flesh” (Blue) #121**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7 Old Testament p. 638**

**Sermon**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: (*Philippians 2:5-11*)**

**Christ Jesus,**

**though he was in the form of God,**

**did not regard equality with God**

**as something to be exploited,**

**but emptied himself,**

**taking the form of a slave,**

**being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form**

**he humbled himself**

**and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God also highly exalted him**

**and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**so that at the name of Jesus**

**every knee should bend,**

**in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!**

**Amen.**

**Service of Healing and Wholeness**

**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.**

### **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.**

## **THE LITURGY OF RESPONSE**

### **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: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Purple) #83**

**\*Choral Benediction**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude: “God of Grace” Cwm Rhondda, Setting by Paul Manz**  
*\*indicates the congregation stands, if able*

**WELCOME** as we worship together. Please join us for Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall after worship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2025**

**PLEASE SPEAK TO A GREETER ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**Youth Bulletins or Sheets, Sack Coloring Pages** are available in the front of the sanctuary.

**Assisted Listening Devices** are in the back of the sanctuary.

**Large Print Hymnal: 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.....Michelle Stevens & Jan Chisholm  
AV Support.....Michael Gilman  
Fellowship Hour.....Angie & Charlie Stewart

**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS**

	<b>November 23</b>	<b>November 30</b>	<b>December 7</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Natalie Drahzal	Bill & Kathy Johnson	Barb & Craig Sargent
<b>Offering Counters</b>	John Drahzal & Deb McKee	Bill Johnson & Linda Warnken	Barb Sargent & Deb Ritzko
<b>AV Volunteer</b>	Ryan Brewer	Tom Boink	Michael Gilman
<b>Fellowship Time</b>	Sargent & Novak Congregational Meeting	Volunteers Needed	Natalie & John Drahzal

**COMING UP**

**Today Fellowship Time; Congregational Life Committee in the lounge**  
**7-8pm Joint Book Study with HRC here at ARC**

Mon. Nov. 17 7:00 p.m. Men's Study group

Wed. Nov. 19 7:00 p.m. Consistory

Fri. Nov. 21 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal and potluck

ARC Lite items due to Theresa Lasselle

Sat. Nov. 22 10:00 a.m. Benevolence Committee

Sun. Nov. 23 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. \*\*\*\*Congregational meeting in Fellowship Hall\*\*\*\*\*

### **ARC PLEDGES FOR OUR 2026 CHURCH BUDGET DUE TODAY**

The letter and pledge form are available in the back of the sanctuary. Please return pledge forms to Financial Secretary Russ Twaddell, ARC, P.O. Box 671, Altamont, NY 12009, or via an offering plate today.

### **ARC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

Join us in Fellowship Hall after our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Needed documents will be sent out via email shortly before the meeting, and some hard copies will be available at the meeting.

### **ADOPT-a-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS BEGINS NOVEMBER 23**

The Benevolence Committee will once again coordinate adopting a local family (or two) for the holidays. Look for the list of suggested gift items to be posted on November 23.

### **ARC ADVENT/POTLUCK NIGHT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 4:00-6:00 P.M.**

Help decorate the church from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Then share in a potluck dinner and some singing of our favorite Advent/Christmas carols. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to let us know how many people to expect, and what you will share at the potluck. Bring a friend!

### **ARC ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday, November 30      10:30 a.m. Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7      10:30 a.m. Worship service with Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14      10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent      3:00 p.m. "Living Nativity" on the church front lawn

Sunday, December 22      10:30 a.m. Worship Service with special music by our

Fourth Sunday of Advent      Chancel Choir

**7:00 p.m. Longest Night Worship Service  
of reflection, healing, and hope**

**Wednesday, December 24 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**ARC'S LIVING NATIVITY IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT 3:00 P.M.**

Our Living Nativity will take place on the front lawn of our church. Invite a friend and watch the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ unfold. **We also need volunteers to fill living nativity roles. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 2:00 and you will be fitted with a costume.**

**VOLUNTEER FOR OUR DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNER**

There are many tasks. We have experienced volunteers to help you if this is your first time to volunteer.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS LADIES POTLUCK MONDAY, DEC. 15 6:00 P.M.**

No shopping-bring a wrapped gift-something in your home you no longer want or need. Maybe someone else can use it. Also, if you have a picture of you from a Christmas past, bring it along with a story to share. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Barbara Wilford at 518-313-9633. You don't need to know what you are bringing for dinner, just trying to get a good count. Thanks

**SYMPATHY TO: the family of longtime member Jim Yohey** who died this past week after a long illness. Please keep Barb and the Yohey/Bidleman/Burlingame families in your prayers. Arrangement details will be shared when finalized.

**LIFTING UP MARY LUIDIENS**

Prayers are requested for Mary Luidens, wife of Pastor Matthew's predecessor, Bob Luidens. Mary is experiencing the accelerating debilitation of early-onset Alzheimer's disease, with which she was formally diagnosed in 2023, following her 2020 retirement from her medical service with the VA in Michigan. Sadly, Mary's memory is now so compromised that recalling life within the ARC family is increasingly difficult for her. Nonetheless, simple cards (such as at Thanksgiving or Christmas) would be welcome (1122 Goodwood Court, Holland, MI 49424), with Bob assisting Mary in reading and being embraced by the affection of those sending them. Additionally, email messages specifically to Bob are welcome ([rluidens@yahoo.com](mailto:rluidens@yahoo.com)). Thank you to one and all for your compassionate support at this extremely difficult time for Mary, Bob, and their entire family.

**PRAYERS FOR: Diane Stedman's daughter Julie Brennan** facing surgery sometime in December



**CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:** **Hannah Walters**, 22-year-old granddaughter of Natalie and John Drazhal; Natalie's brother-in-law, **Michael Frey**; **Clara Lasselle and family**, as Clara is now in hospice care; **Kim Gurney and family**; **Joan**, elderly relative of Nancy Twaddell; **Gerry Starr**, cousin of the Sargents; **Jackie Gregory**; **Bea Smith**; **Mona Shuker**; **John & Marlene Williams**; **Paige and Eric Tooker** (Cystic Fibrosis); **Patti Percoski**; **Lois Wood**; **Nancy Harrigan**, Jackie Greory's sister; **Linda**, Kitt's sister-in-law; **Paula Painter**; **Clara and Ralph Lasselle**, in Kingsway Community Assisted Living; **Chris Tucker**, at the Washington Center Nursing and Rehab; **Jeanne Picard-Fish**, at Daughters of Sarah; **Keith Baratier's father, Paul**

**Altamont Reformed Church**

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