

Altamont Reformed Church
First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025

Prelude **"Infant Holy"** **Arr. by R.W. Thygerson**
Audrey Daly-Gilman, Organist

THE LITURGY OF APPROACH

Votum

<u>Call to Worship (Psalm 46)</u>
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains shake and the waters roar.
For there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.
God will help those of the city when the morning dawns.
God makes wars cease by breaking the bow, shattering the spear, and burning the shields in the fire.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God speaks, the earth melts.
Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted in the earth. I am exalted among the nations.
The Lord of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Let us worship God, whose presence brings us peace.

Opening Prayer

***Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Blue) # 141**

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, before you we confess our sin and the sin of the world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided as we cling to the values of a broken world. So much of the profit and pleasure we pursue pollutes your creation. The fear and jealousy we harbor sets neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your gifts of freedom and imagination, of reason and intellect, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy on us. Heal and forgive us. Set us free to love and serve you as agents of your reconciling love, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Water cleanses and purifies,
Water refreshes and renews.
Jesus Christ is the living water,
And he promises to do all these things for us.
Remember, God loved us first,
And called us by name as his own people.
God blesses us with the presence and promise of the Holy Spirit
And leads us into a future filled with peace through Jesus Christ.

The Law of God

In this stream, God forgives us!
Let us respond to God's grace by loving and trusting God completely,
Forsaking the evil of the world that leaves us dry and strips life from us,
And let us live renewed and holy lives.

***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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Message

***Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Blue) #128**

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Readings: Psalm 107:1-16 Old Testament p. 559
Matthew 11:28-30 New Testament p. 12
Sermon: Navigating the Times

***Affirmation of Faith: (From "Our World Belongs to God" # 39)**
The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners called to be holy. Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others and together confess our need for grace and understanding. Restored in Christ's presence and shaped by his life, this new community of faith lives out the ongoing story of God's reconciling love, announcing the new creation and working for a world of justice and peace.

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**

Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer

<u>The Lord's Prayer</u>
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.

***<u>Closing Hymn</u>: "Good Christian Men Rejoice" (Blue) #151**

***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 Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall after worship.

WE WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY Pastor Bob Hoffman, who currently serves as the Synod Administrator and Stated Clerk for the Regional Synod of Albany. He retired as pastor of the First Reformed Church of Berne in 2023 having served there since graduating seminary in 1976. He lives in Voorheesville with his wife, Becky.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 28, 2025</u>

<u>PLEASE SPEAK TO A GREETER ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:</u>
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.