



THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Come Sunday

Edward Kennedy ["Duke"] Ellington (1899-1974); adapt.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

✦ *please stand as you are able*

PEALING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*God of all, as we seek you in this holy place, may we feel your Spirit fill us
with hope for a world at peace. May your light guide our feet in paths of service.
And may we find wisdom in your story as it unfolds in our midst. Amen.*

CHORAL INTROIT

In Christ We Live

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heaven be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

This is God's house, holy ground for God's people, hallowed by singing and silence and prayer;

Blessed by the presence and power of the Spirit, founded on faith in the Savior we share.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Leader: Lead me in your trust, and teach me,

People: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Leader: Let us worship God!

✦ HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence, we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The fear and resentment we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

Forgive us, we pray, for the sake of the Christ who came to give us all a second chance. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON *(sung by the choir)*

Paul Halley, 2001

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

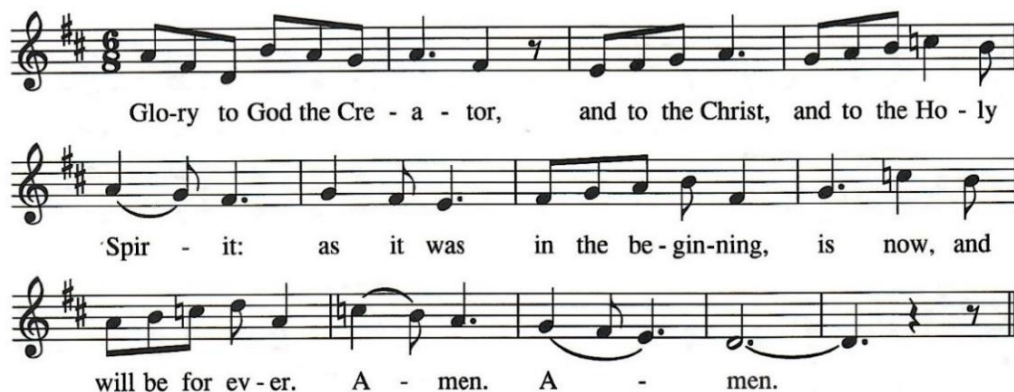
-Greek, 5th/6th centuries; transl

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news! God pours out grace upon us without condition and in abundance. It is only because of the gift of God's grace that we can proclaim that we are a forgiven people. Know this truth and be at peace.

✦ **GLORIA PATRI** (*sung by all*)

Ronald A. Nelson, 1986



Latin, 3rd/4th centuries; transl.

Children age 4 through 5th grade may now leave to go to the Westminster Room for Enrichment Activities.

THE WORD

TESTIMONIAL

Mujahideen Muhammad

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 5:27-31

(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 123)

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“To Obey God Rather Than Man”

Dr. John Ducksworth

THE RESPONSE

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Romans 12)

Brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. Amen.

✦ **HYMN 313**

Lord, Make Us More Holy

Lord, Make Us More Holy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 (*sung by the choir*)

Paul Halley, 2001

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. Serene Jones
President, Union Theological Seminary

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Please visit <https://ryepc.com/givel/> to give online. If you do not have your offering with you today, "Gift cards" are in the pews so that you may participate in this portion of worship by placing one in the offering plate.

ANTHEM FOR CHOIR

Ubi caritas

Ola Gjeilo, 2001

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsulemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

God is where there is charity and love.
Christ's love has gathered us as one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us honor and love the living God.
And with sincere hearts let us love each other. Amen.

-based on John 13:35 and I Corinthians 13:13

*EASTERTIDE DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen

The tune is printed in the hymnal at no. 10.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

-Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH

✦ HYMN 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

McKee

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN *(All are invited into the chancel to listen to the postlude.)*

Improvisation on the Plainsong melody *Ubi caritas*

Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church

New Member Information

If you are a guest today, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time of worship. You may go to ryepc.com/im-new/ and fill out the welcome form online.

If you or a family member need to step out of the sanctuary during worship, please feel free to do so. There is live audio from the service in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary and live video in the church library.

Children and Childcare

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers is available to care for children 3 months to 3 years old while parents attend worship services. Childcare can be found on the first floor of the Education Wing.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Anne Halloin at ahalloin@ryepc.com.

To help children feel welcomed and engaged during worship, Rainbow Bags – filled with crayons, books, and coloring pages – are located in boxes at each sanctuary entrance door.

Please return Rainbow Bags following worship.

Hearing Assistance

The sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop assistive listening system. To access the system, please switch your hearing aid setting to “T” (telephone).

Participants in Today's Service

Edward Avery and Lindsey Furnary, *Ushers*
Graduates of the Master of Professional Studies in Ministry Programs
at Sing Sing and Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities.

Cover Artwork

The cover artwork is by Denis Martinez, formerly incarcerated at Sing Sing and a graduate of the Seminary Master's program. It was done entirely with his fingerprints and stencils.

DEDICATIONS

The chancel flowers are given by

Anne Halloin, in memory of her grandmother, Kay Michele Halloin.

The white roses at the lectern are in honor of the births of

Millie Anne Darrell, born on April 17, daughter of Megan and Peter Darrell, and
Rumi Briones-Khan, born on April 21, son of Nadia Briones and Maheer Khan.

In Memoriam

Margaret Calabrese, February 22, 2025

TODAY

A Coffee Hour and a Luncheon will be held in the Assembly Room following worship. All are welcome!

Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 11:15 a.m., Chapel
Confirmation Class – 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room
Men's Bible Study – 8:00 p.m., Library / Hybrid

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Monday Morning Bible Study – Zoom

Tuesday, April 29

1:00 p.m. Women's Discipleship – Library/Hybrid

Wednesday, April 30

3:45 p.m. Stories and Songs for Children – Westminster Room

7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Pizza Party – Colony Grill in Port Chester

Thursday, May 1

10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop

5:30 p.m. Coming Home – Library / Westminster Room

7:00 p.m. West Coast Swing Dance Class – Assembly Room

Sunday, May 4

8:45 a.m. Moms' Bible Study – Youth Rooms

7:00 p.m. Rev. Cari Pattison's Installation – Sanctuary / Assembly Room

GENERAL NOTICES



INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THE REV. CARI PATTISON

PLEASE JOIN US ON

**SUNDAY, MAY 4, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE
RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY**

HOSTED BY RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND THE HUDSON RIVER PRESBYTERY

JOIN US AFTERWARDS IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM
FOR A LIGHT RECEPTION

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Library

Please join the Women's Discipleship Group on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., in the library, for our study of *An Unhurried Life*, by Alan Fadling. For more information, please contact Alicia Baldwin at alicia.baldwin@verizon.net or Courtney Bennett at courtneybennett910@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome to jump in at any time!

MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

First and Third Sundays, 8:45-9:45 a.m., in the Youth Rooms

The RPC Moms' Bible Study has a different format this Spring! The group will meet from 8:45-9:45 a.m. the first and third Sundays of each month, before worship. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4. This group is for moms with young children who are looking for support, encouragement, and fellowship with other moms. Childcare is available! If you'd like to be on the email list, or to learn more, please contact Madison Walsh at madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

May 3, 17, and 31, 10:00 a.m., in the Library

Women's Bible Study meets Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. We are reading the whole of the Bible. Please join us! For more information, please contact Cynthia Wells at cynthiawells@gmail.com.

SPRING BOOK STUDY

Tuesday evenings at 7:30, May 6 – June 10

Led by Rev. Love, together we will read and discuss the profound changes and challenges of living with our embrace of technology through *The Extinction of Experience: Being Human in a Disembodied World* by Christine Rosen. More than just a lament and a yearning for a simpler time, Rosen explores the effects on our sense of self, our relationships, and the choices we face daily, challenging us to "reclaim serendipity, community, patience, and risk." If you are interested in being a part of this study, please contact Rev. Love at dlove@ryepc.com and begin reading so we can dive in on May 6.

WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLASSES

Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the RPC Assembly Room

All levels are welcome! Classes are \$20 per person, per session. Please RSVP each week to instructor Christopher Bledsoe at (484) 393-5955 (text/call.) For more information, visit www.westie-night-out.com/.

Brought to RPC by the Fellowship and Formation Committee.

RPC RUNS

Join us for a run on Friday mornings at 6:00

We will start running at 6:00 a.m. from the RPC parking lot, making a 3-mile loop to Rye Town Park that finishes back at RPC. Please show up 5-10 minutes early if you would like to stretch and warm up. This will be very relaxed, so run at your own pace and do what works for you. All are welcome!

Organized by Jordy Winslow. For more information, email jordywinslow@gmail.com, or call 203-246-5690.

CARING FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING ANXIETY

Tuesday, May 13, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Assembly Room

The Stephen Leader Team and Fellowship & Formation are teaming up to host Laura Newby, LMHC from the Redeemer Counseling Services to give this talk. There will be a chance to ask questions and connect with others immediately afterward. Let us know if you plan to attend by emailing elizabethlukes@mac.com. We hope to see you there!

BABY BUNDLE PROJECT



RPC and RPNS Invite You to Participate in the Baby Bundle Project in Partnership with Open Door. Please join us as we launch our 8th annual Baby Bundle Project with Open Door Family Medical Center to support new parents in giving babies a healthy and safe start in life. Each year, Open Door helps to deliver close to 500 newborns in Westchester County.

Between Mother's and Father's Day, we will be collecting all the essentials for creating a Baby Bundle for new moms and dads at Open Door to welcome their newborns. Baby Bundles include diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, an infant thermometer, health and grooming kits, sleep sacks, sleep and play pajamas, onesies and other clothing, board books, and small infant toys. The entire baby bundle can be purchased for \$200 per newborn. Bassinets are in the hall outside the first-floor Welcome Area and the entrance to RPNS. During our month-long drive, please feel free to place your donations in the pack n plays or you can order items to be sent directly to Open Door through the Amazon Open Door Baby Registry. You may either follow the adjacent link or the QR Code above. <https://rebrand.ly/Baby-Bundle-Wishes>.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Daniel Love, *Co-Pastor*

dlove@ryepc.com

The Rev. Cari Pattison, *Co-Pastor*

cpattison@ryepc.com

Anne Halloin, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

ahalloin@ryepc.com

Jason Charneski, *Director of Music and Organist*

jcharneski@ryepc.com

Maida Robinson, *Chief Administrative Officer*

mrobinson@ryepc.com

Peggy Berretta, *Administrative Assistant*

pberretta@ryepc.com

Max Crawley, *Administrative Assistant for Communications*

mcrawley@ryepc.com

Aileen Lynch, *Office Assistant*

alynch@ryepc.com

Juan Velasquez, *Head Sexton/Building Manager*

jvelasquez@ryepc.com

Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*



GIVING AT RPC

Online donation options are available on our giving page, at ryepc.com/give/ and through the QR code. Contact Maida Robinson at mrobinson@ryepc.com with any questions. *Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the church.*

*We are a Stephen Ministry church that offers a one-on-one caring ministry to those in need.
If you need assistance from your pastors, deacons, or a Stephen Minister, please call at (914) 967-0842.
If you are experiencing an acute crisis, you can call or text 988
and you'll connect with a mental health professional through the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.*



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Come Sunday

Music: Edward Kennedy ["Duke"] Ellington

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In Christ We Live

Text and Music: John L. Bell

Text and Music © 2011, 2020 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow.

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Christ Is Alive!

Text: Brian Wren

Text © 1975, ren. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Lord, Have Mercy upon Us & Amen

Music: Paul Halley

Music © 2001 Pelagos Music. www.pelagosmusic.com. All rights reserved.

Glory to God the Creator

Music: Ronald A. Nelson

Music © 1986 The United Church of Christ. All rights reserved.

Ubi caritas

Music: Ola Gjeilo

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The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

Text: Adam M. L. Tice

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....I was in prison and you visited me...

Matthew 25:36



Melvin Isaac—Class of '98

Union Theological Seminary

Union Theological Seminary (UTS), founded in 1836 in New York City, is a globally recognized seminary and graduate school of theology where faith, spirituality, and scholarship meet to reimagine the work of justice. A beacon for social justice and progressive change, UTS is led by a diverse group of theologians and activist leaders. Drawing on both Christian traditions and multiple religious traditions, along with the insights of communities of conscience, the institution is focused on educating leaders who can address critical issues like racial equity, criminal justice reform, income inequality, and protecting the environment.

New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) was a graduate school of theology historically committed to training both ordained and lay leaders for the city. As part of that mission, in 1982 it began the Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Ministry and Leadership Program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. It expanded the program to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in 2022. Upon the closure of NYTS, UTS became the new home for the MPS program in Fall 2024. Many of the leaders and faculty members from NYTS joined UTS to ensure the program would continue and thrive. UTS will graduate its first class of MPS students in June 2025. All graduates of the NYTS MPS are now members of the UTS alumni community.

The Master of Profession Studies in Ministry and Leadership

The MPS is an accredited, 36-credit graduate program offered to persons who are incarcerated in the New York State correctional system. They are also required to commit themselves to serve their fellow inmates both during the program and after graduation. The vast majority of graduates who have been released from prison are currently employed in the “helping professions” in their communities. Many have gone on to become founders and senior leaders of the most prominent organizations supporting reentry and advocating for criminal legal system reform.

RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRISON MINISTRY

For nearly 30 years, RPC has been engaged in work in the criminal justice system in general and the New York State prison system in particular. Our congregation has been a leader in Hudson River Presbytery in this important ministry. Many church members have been active in a variety of programs in prison, many of which we helped found. Here's a sample:

Coming Home

Coming Home is an 18-week program for men and women who were incarcerated. It provides guidance on how to effectively re-enter society on the outside, find a job, reconnect with family, and build a new life after being in prison for as much as 30 years. Coming Home engages individual members of RPC as mentors for participants. It also enables congregants and others to share a weekly dinner with participants, to know them as human beings, and to build bridges between people from vastly different backgrounds.

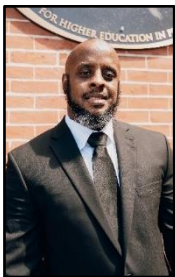
Volunteering Inside Prison

Prior to the pandemic, a group of men and women from RPC and neighboring communities met with men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility who were students in the Masters in Professional Studies in Ministry Program, and with graduates of that program who remained incarcerated at Sing Sing. These monthly meetings enabled the volunteers and the inmates to enjoy fellowship together—to laugh, to pray, to share our stories, and to care for one another. These programs of visiting inside the prisons have not been fully reinstituted since the pandemic.

Other Programs:

- 1) We have a “Clothes Closet” collecting men’s clothing for paroled graduates to wear as they seek employment and begin their careers. We especially need large sizes of suits, dress shirts, slacks, and sport jackets. If you have questions or are interested in helping sort clothing, please contact Kerri Olson: kerriolson2@aim.com.
- 2) In 1994, when all state and federal funding was stripped from the higher education programs in prisons around the country, Rye Presbyterian Church jumped into the trenches with a small group of professors to create Hudson Link, the very first privately financed college program, to serve incarcerated men and women in New York State Prisons. Since 2001, Hudson Link, in partnership with nine universities & colleges, has provided undergraduate education in five state prisons. Based in Ossining, Hudson Link has expanded its efforts to include tech support, a clothing store, transitional housing, and other programs for those coming out of prison.
- 3) We helped guide the founding and growth of “Rising Hope,” which was founded by MPS graduates in 1997 and has since been initiated at six other prisons in New York. This is a 30-credit “undergraduate” program modeled on the MPS curriculum to help meet prisoners’ thirst for knowledge.

If you have interest in participating in any of these opportunities, please contact Cari Pattison at the church office or via email at cpattison@ryepc.com.



Sharing his testimony today is Mujahideen Muhammad. Mr. Muhammad is a research assistant at The Center for Justice at Columbia University and the founder of The Pillars of Promise, an organization committed to promoting positive images of incarcerated individuals to the public and advocating for equitable treatment and legislation for those incarcerated in New York State prisons. While incarcerated for nearly 25 years, Muhammad earned a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Hudson Link/Mercy University and a master's degree in professional studies of Urban Ministry from Union Theological Seminary. Muhammad is a passionate advocate for ending mass incarceration and granting second chances to incarcerated people with excessive sentences.



We are especially pleased to welcome as our guest preacher Dr. John Ducksworth. John is a member of the first class of New York Theological Seminary's Master's Program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, graduating in 1985. He also has an associate degree from Dutchess Community College, a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from SUNY, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a concentration in management and organization. In 2022 he earned his Doctorate of Ministry Degree from New York Theological Seminary. John spends his intelligence and boundless energy working to reform the criminal justice system, inform the general public about issues relating to prisons and criminal justice reform and help men and women who have returned to society after their release. Recently John has created and leads a program in Sing Sing, in partnership with Eric Waters, another NYTS graduate, for men currently in prison to prepare them for a positive life upon release.



Bringing greetings from Union Theological Seminary is the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones. A highly respected scholar and public intellectual, the Rev. Dr. Jones is the 16th President of the historic Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. The first woman to head the 188-year-old institution, Jones occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy. She is a Past President of the American Academy of Religion, which annually hosts the world's largest gathering of scholars of religion. Jones came to Union after seventeen years at Yale University, where she was the Titus Street Professor of Theology at the Divinity School, and Chair of the University's Program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She is the author of several books including *Trauma and Grace* and, most recently, her memoir *Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*. Jones, a popular public speaker, is sought by media to comment on major issues impacting society because of her deep grounding in theology, politics, women's studies, economics, race studies, history, and ethics.