

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Mr. Neves

Prelude on *My Lord, What a Morning*

Spiritual, arr. Richard Billingham (1934-2024)

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.

PEALING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

For all that has been – thanks!

To all that will be – Yes!

Dag Hammarskjöld

CHORAL INTROIT

Joy to the World

Thomas Haweis, c. 1792;
adapt. Samuel Webbe, Jr., 1808

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

-Psalm 98; para. Isaac Watts, 1719

*These familiar words, sung here to a different tune, serve to point us anew to Watts's
intent that these words speak to Christ's coming again and not to his birth.*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Teddy and Kenny Sheresky

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

✦ HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ *please stand as you are able*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, have mercy on us, for we are not ready for your coming.
We live in distraction, as though there were no purpose.
We live armed and armored, as though there were no peace.
We live in sin, as though there will be no justice.
We live in fear, as though there were no grace.**

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

**In your mercy, Lord, forgive us. Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Grant us the wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure
in the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

TRISAGION (*sung by the choir*)

Armenian chant; harm.

Holy God, Holy, mighty, and immortal God:
Christ crucified for sinners, have mercy on us.

-transl. Bishop Nareg Alemejian, 2009

The Trisagion – the “Thrice Holy” – comes from the rites of the Eastern churches.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

✦ **GLORIA PATRI**

Regent Square

The music for this setting is printed in the hymnal at no. 143, Angels from the Realms of Glory.

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run.**

-Latin, 3rd/4th centuries; transl.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR ANN ELSIE ALEXANDER

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service is complete.)

STATEMENT ON BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

QUESTIONS TO THE GODPARENTS

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Do you, on behalf of the whole church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Elsie by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful member of his Church?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(congregation standing)*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessed are you, almighty God, creator of the universe, ruler of heaven and earth. You are the source of light and life for all creation. In your goodness, you give us the sign of water.

People: At the beginning, your Spirit was at work, brooding over the waters of creation's birth, bringing forth life in all its fullness. Through the gift of water, you nourish and sustain all living things.

Pastor: In the time of Noah, you cleansed the earth through the waters of the flood. By the pillar of cloud and fire, you led Israel through the waters of the Red Sea out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

People: In the waters of the river Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit. He is the never-failing spring who has promised that all who thirst can come to the living water.

Pastor: By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, he set us free from bondage to sin and death and opened to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

People: We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life, and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Elsie, that she may have the power to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ.

People: To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all praise, honor, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

GIVING OF THE LIGHT

Deacon: Receive the light of Christ; you have passed from darkness into light.

People: **You have been enlightened with Christ; walk always as a child of the light.**

RESPONSE *(sung by all)*

Baptized in Water

Bunessan

This setting is printed in the hymnal at no. 482, the third stanza.

Children ages 4 through 5th grade may go to Sunday School during the singing of this response.

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

-Michael A. Seward, 1981

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Andrea O'Meara, lay reader

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

(Pew Bible, Old Testament, page 631)

after each reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

(Pew Bible, New Testament, 162)

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 27)

SERMON

"New Year's Resolutions"

Rev. Love

✦ HYMN *(see back of bulletin)*

Now Is the Time Approaching

Webb

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Wait for the Lord

Jacques Berthier, 1984

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

-Psalm 27:14; adapt.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Please visit ryepc.com/give/ to give online, detailed on the back cover. 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 AND ORGAN

Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold! the King of Glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King of triumph comes.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
thy Holy Spirit guide us on until the glorious crown be won. Amen.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel:
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Peter Niedmann (b. 1960)

-Georg Weissel, 1641; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865

✦ DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

Old Hundredth

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

-Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING FORTH

✦ HYMN (see back of bulletin)

View the Present through the Promise

Ar hyd y nos

✦ BENEDICTION

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

Improvisation on *Besançon* (People, Look East!)

*All are invited to the Assembly Room for Coffee Hour.
(The Assembly Room can be found by exiting the front right doors.)*

Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church

General Information

If you are a guest today, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time of worship. To learn more about the ongoing life of the church, please 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 A. 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).

Grace Notes Newsletter

Pick up one of our full-color monthly church newsletters, available at every sanctuary entrance: includes photos, updates, articles, and devotions from pastors. It is also available digitally through email, along with our website’s resources page at ryepc.com/grace-notes-newsletter/.

Participants in Today’s Service

Emily Wirth, *Crucifer*

Ed Avery, Connie McBroom, Susan Morison, and Elizabeth Parks, *Ushers*

TODAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

1:00 p.m. Women’s Discipleship – Library/Zoom

Wednesday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Greening of the Kirk

10:00 a.m. Chapel Yoga – Chapel

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Westminster Room

5:30 p.m. Middle School Connection – Youth Rooms

Thursday, December 4

10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop

Sunday, December 7

8:45 a.m. Moms’ Bible Study – Conference Room

11:00 a.m. Interfaith Prison Charity Event – Assembly Room

11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Chapel

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class – Westminster Room

5:00 p.m. Gingerbread Houses – Assembly Room

7:00 p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting – Front Lawn

Dessert following Christmas Tree Lighting – 890 Manse

GENERAL NOTICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Sunday School for children age 4 through 5th grade is held Sunday mornings during worship. To register your child, please visit the registration page on our website, or scan the QR Code. ryepc.com/ministries/sunday-school-registration/



THRIFT SHOP

Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For more information on donations, please check the church website.

You can also email the shop at RyeThrift10580@gmail.com.

GREENING OF THE KIRK

Wednesday, December 3, at 8:30 a.m.

It's almost that time when RPC's elves gather together to decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays.

You can look forward to food and drink, music, and lots of merriment.

Please contact Ashley Ginnings at ashleytginnings@gmail.com if we can count on you this year!

INTERFAITH PRISON CHARITY EVENT

Sunday, December 7, following worship, in the Assembly Room

The Christian Education Committee invites you to help pack activity bags used by children visiting their incarcerated Mothers. The bags help create a positive and meaningful visit for both mother and child, and these bags will be just in time for holiday visits! We will be packing bags on Sunday December 7 after service at the coffee hour in the Assembly Room. All ages are welcome to attend! In addition to packing the bags, you can contribute to this initiative by purchasing items off of this amazon wishlist or by giving a \$25 donation (the cost of one activity bag) online or during coffee hour.



[Amazon Wishlist](#)



[\\$25 Donation](#)

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

Sunday, December 7, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Assembly Room



Join us for a festive evening of creativity, community, and Christmas cheer! All ages are invited! We'll provide the gingerbread houses, icing, and plenty of sweet treats—just bring your holiday spirit! Dinner will also be served. Please sign up online to ensure that we can have enough gingerbread houses on hand. Families should note that RPC's Christmas Tree Lighting begins at 7:00 p.m. on that same day, so stick around afterwards to continue the festivities! We hope to see you there. [Gingerbread House Sign-Up](#)

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for carols around the tree to welcome the Christmas season!

We'll begin our festivities on the front lawn, followed by desserts and hot chocolate at the 890 Manse.

Please bring a dessert to share! Desserts can be dropped off in the church kitchen before 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, or they can be carried over with you after the tree lighting. Thank you!

We welcome members, friends, and visitors of all ages.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND MUSIC

Through Monday, December 8

We invite you to join in celebrating the Christmas season by making a donation toward our Christmas flowers and music. All gifts received by Monday, December 8, will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Max Crawley at mcrawley@ryepc.com.

Donate by Cash/Check

Within the sanctuary, you will find Christmas Flowers and Music envelopes available.

Envelopes are labeled with instructions and dedication forms.

Donate Online

Visit ryepc.com/worship/christmas-flowers-and-music/

or scan the QR code for PayPal instructions and an online dedication form.



RYE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Assembly Room

Christmas Pageant Sign-Up

ryepc.com/ministries/christmas-pageant/

Through carols and costumes, we will be sharing the Christmas story with our congregation. Children ages 5 through 6th grade are welcome to join us for the annual Christmas Pageant. Sign up on our website! All children who can attend rehearsals are guaranteed a part. No need to audition! Rehearsals are on December 3, 10, and 17, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., in the Westminster Room, along with a Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party on December 20, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Christmas Pageant Volunteers

[Christmas Pageant Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Volunteers will help us organize our young performers and keep everything running smoothly – from rehearsing their lines with them, making sure everyone has the right costumes, and assisting the choir director. Middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults are all welcome to volunteer and help with this year's Christmas Pageant. For more information, and to schedule volunteering hours, please visit our SignUpGenius.



MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

Resuming on Sunday, December 7, from 8:45 - 9:45 a.m., in the Conference Room

This group is for moms with young children who are looking for support, encouragement, and fellowship with other moms. With the holidays coming up, we're taking a short break. We'll continue our regular Sunday meetings starting on December 7. If you'd like to be on the email list, or to learn more, please contact Madison Walsh at madisonlichliterwalsh@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Tuesdays, from 1:00 - 2:25 p.m., in the Library

Please join us in the RPC library on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:25 for book study and discipleship. Feel free to jump in anytime! We're reading *Life Lessons from John: When God Became Man*, by Max Lucado.

All are welcome! Please let either Courtney Bennett (courtneybennett910@gmail.com) or Alicia Baldwin (alicia.baldwin@verizon.net) know so we can add you to our email list.

CHAPEL YOGA

Wednesdays, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., in the Chapel

Cari Pattison is a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200), and is offering a Level 1 Vinyasa flow class on Wednesday mornings. Weaving a bit of scripture into the basic class structure, the class gives us an opportunity to stretch and strengthen our bodies, breathe into a posture of prayer, and deepen our relationship with God. Bring a mat if you have one; mats are also available to borrow, along with other props. All are welcome, including beginners! To RSVP, or to learn more, email cpattison@ryepc.com.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

Due by Wednesday, December 31, at 12:00 p.m.



Your Charitable Deduction

As 2025 comes to an end, please keep in mind the church financial records will close on Wednesday, December 31, at noon. All checks must be received by December 31 to qualify for a charitable deduction in the 2025 tax year. As you make your year-end gifts to the church, please note the purpose in the memo line or on the envelope—Annual Giving or Christmas Joy Offering. Separate checks for gifts are appreciated.

Pledge Balance

If you would like to check your annual giving balance online through Access ACS, visit our website:

ryepc.com/about-rpc/member-login/

Donating Stock

If you're interested in donating stock to RPC, please visit our giving page:

ryepc.com/give/

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through Wednesday, December 21



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (“BOP”), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God’s charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- ✦ \$1.1 million of gifts from the 2024 Offering are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- ✦ Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 261 individual recipients, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- ✦ Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 1,366 individual recipients remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- ✦ Emergency Assistance Grants from the BOP helped more than 199 individual recipients facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- ✦ \$1.1 million of gifts from 2024 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- ✦ Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.
- ✦ This annual special offering of the PC(USA) will be received through Wednesday, December 21.

To donate online through either RPC or the PC(USA),
please visit ryepc.com/article/christmas-joy-offering/



CANTATA SUNDAY

Glory to God in the Highest!



DECEMBER 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Festive Reception to Follow

Music for Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra

Vivaldi: Gloria



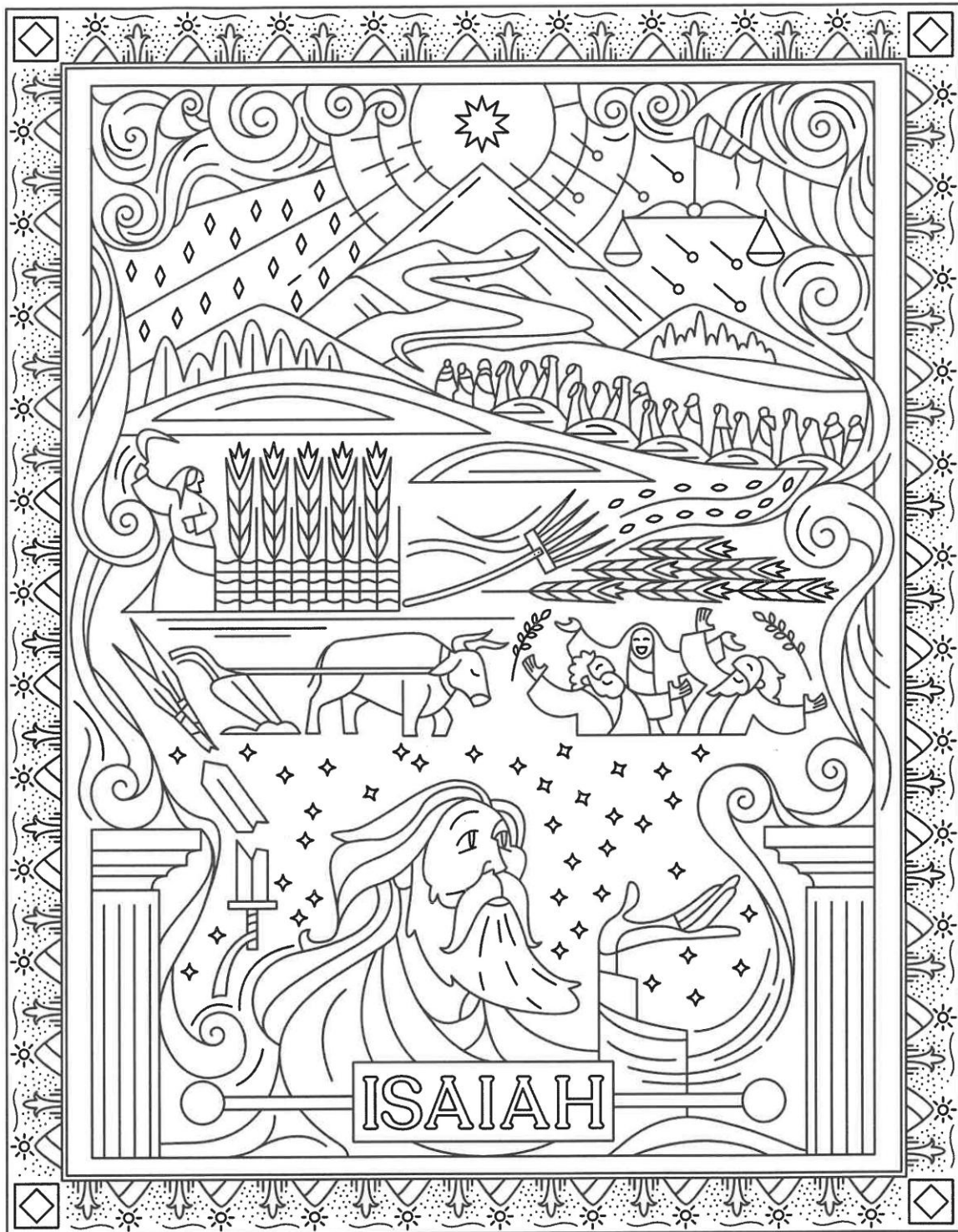
Albinoni: "Allegro non molto"

from *Oboe Concerto in D Minor* (op. 9, no. 2)



Purcell: Rondeau

Cantata Sunday is made possible through generous gifts to the Music Fund.





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My Lord, What a Morning
Music arr. Richard Billingham

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Holy God
Text transl. Bishop Nareg Alemezian
Text transl. © 2009 Bishop Nareg Alemezian of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.
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Baptized in Water
Text: Michael A. Saward Music: Gaelic melody, arr. Dale Grotenhuis
Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).
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Music arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission.

Wait for the Lord
Music: Jacques Berthier
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.).
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Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Music: Peter Niedmann
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

View the Present through the Promise
Text: Thomas Troeger
Text © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc., assigned 2010 to Oxford University Press.
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Now Is the Time Approaching

Webb

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph-ets long fore - told,
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Text: Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt. Music: George J. Webb, 1837

View the Present through the Promise

Ar hyd y nos



1. View the pres-ent through the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.
2. Probe the pres-ent with the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.
3. Match the pres-ent to the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.



Trust de-spite the deep-ening dark-ness, Christ will come a - gain.
 Let your dai - ly ac - tions wit-ness, Christ will come a - gain.
 Make this hope your guid - ing prem-ise, Christ will come a - gain.



Lift the world a - bove its griev-ing through your watch-ing and be-liev-ing
 Let your lov-ing and your giv-ing and your jus - tice and for-giv-ing
 Pat-tern all your cal - cu - lat - ing and the world you are cre-a-ting



in the hope past hope's con-ceiv-ing: Christ will come a - gain.
 be a sign to all the liv-ing: Christ will come a - gain.
 to the ad-vent you are wait-ing: Christ will come a - gain.





CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Daniel Love, *Co-Pastor*

dlove@ryepc.com

The Rev. Cari Pattison, *Co-Pastor*

cpattison@ryepc.com

Anne A. 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

Junior Morales, *Head Sexton/Building Manager*

amorales@ryepc.com

Alonso Osorio, *Sunday Sexton*

Haniel Neves, *Knock Intern in Sacred Music*



*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.*



GIVING AT RPC

Online donation options are available on our giving page,

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.

