

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORCHESTRA

Oboe Concerto in D Minor [op. 9, no. 2]: i. Allegro non molto

Mr. Diaz, soloist
Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)

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

*Open us, Holy One, to your Way. Clear our minds of all distractions.
Fill our hearts with humility so we may receive your joy this day. Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Young Beardsley Family

On this third 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 wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

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

✦ HYMN 149

All Hail to God's Anointed

Rockport

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all joy, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise. We are hurried and distracted, prone to missing the good news of great joy you have prepared for us.

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

Spirit of God, ready us for your glory to come near. Help us to hear the voices of truth wherever they are to be found. Help us to clear the path to our hearts, so that we may joyfully live in the way of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

✦ *please stand as you are able*

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children age 4 through 5th grade may now go to their Sunday School classes.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ainsley Parks, *lay reader*

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-5

(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 11)

after each reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 57)

MEDITATION

Rev. Love

CANTICLE FOR CHOIR, SOLO VOICES, AND ORCHESTRA

Gloria [RV 589]

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Choir

I. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

II. Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.

*And on earth peace
to those of good will.*

Duet for Sopranos (Ms. Chassagnoux and Ms. Sawatsky)

III. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

*We praise you. We bless you.
We adore you. We glorify you.*

Choir

IV. Gratias agimus tibi

We give thanks to you

V. propter magnam gloriam tuam.

according to your great glory.

Solo for Soprano (Ms. Sawatsky)

VI. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

*Lord God, King of Heaven,
God the Father almighty.*

Choir

VII. Domine fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son.*

Solo for Alto (Ms. Brooks), with Choir

VIII.	Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.</i>
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Choir

IX.	Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.	<i>You who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.</i>
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Solo for Alto (Ms. Briones)

X.	Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.	<i>You who sit at the Father's right hand, have mercy upon us.</i>
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Choir

XI.	Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.	<i>For you alone are holy. You alone are the Lord. You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ.</i>
XII.	Cum Sancto Spiritu in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.	<i>With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</i>

THE RESPONSE

✦ ADVENT LITANY

Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged,
Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house, in the marketplace, in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,
Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love,
Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the Kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might
stumble, that the humble might be raised, Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, among us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time,
for all time, Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things new. Amen.

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.

MUSIC FOR HARPSICHORD

Sonata in A Major [Kk. 219]

Mr. Neves, soloist
Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

✦ **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 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.

THE SENDING FORTH

✦ **HYMN** (see back pages)

O Promised One of Israel

Forest Green

st. 3 harm. Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

✦ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE FOR ORCHESTRA

Rondeau

Mr. du Maine, soloist

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

*Following worship, all are invited to the Assembly Room for Festive Reception.
(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

Thomas Ausfahl, Sarah Barringer, Barbara Cummings, and Nancy Kennedy, *Ushers*

The Chancel Choir

Soprano

Susan Chassagnoux
Chrissy Connor
Grace Yoon Kilroy
Gail Langeloh
Katrín Naelapaa
Addy Park
Kelly Sawatsky
Molly Watson

Alto

Nadia Briones
Zoe Brooks
Joan Cresap
Cynthia De Santis
Young Kim
Cindy Kuster
Susan Morison
Amber Nee
Mary Versfelt

Tenor

Patrick Lombardo
Zachary Marshall
Philip Pacelli
Jacob Rivera

Bass

Vladimir Avetisian
Douglas Carey
Jeremy Fletcher
Keith Harris
Michael McAvoy
Kenneth Nilsen
Justin Qiu
Charles Park
David Versfelt

The Orchestra

Michael Roth, personnel manager

Violin I

Ming-Feng Hsin, concertmaster
Xiao-Dong Wang
Sarah Pratt Parsamian

Violin II

Sarah Vonsattel, principal
Martin Agee
Sander Strenger

Viola

Michael Roth, principal
Sarah Adams
Jack Rosenberg

Cello

David Heiss, principal
Daniel Miller

Bass

Mark Minkler, principal

Oboe

Pedro Diaz, principal

Bassoon

Mark Romatz, principal

Trumpet

Wayne du Maine, principal

Harpsichord and Organ

Haniel Neves

A Message of Gratitude

For their generous contributions to the Music Fund that have provided for this orchestra, we extend tremendous gratitude to Marian and Richard Bott, Susan and Dod Fraser, Amber Nee, and Mary and David Versfelt.

THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

This morning we worship God with music of four composers whose lives are a study in similarities and contrasts. Note primarily their being relatively contemporaneous (born between 1659 and 1685). Albinoni and Vivaldi were in Venice, which was the locus of trade – and, thus, culture – between East and West. The contrast lay in Albinoni being a wealthy merchant who composed numerous concerti, and Vivaldi, who also composed numerous concerti, being a priest who worked in an orphanage for girls and women whose parental lineage was outside the bonds of matrimony.

Scarlatti was born in Naples but spent most of his life on the Iberian peninsula, in service to the Spanish and Portuguese royal families. He wrote 555 keyboard sonatas. Contrast this with Purcell, who did not travel beyond his native England and, seemingly, did not compose nearly as many works as did Vivaldi and Scarlatti. That said, one can imagine what would have come from Purcell's pen had he lived longer and remained in service to the English royalty. Yet, what did emanate from Purcell, along with the other three composers mentioned here, spanned sacred and secular needs.

Many musical forms (sonata, rondeau, fugue, etc., all of which you will hear this morning) were well established by the time these composers were adding their works to the canon. These forms found their genesis in Italy; this as a result of it being the first country/culture to go through the Renaissance and Baroque periods of architecture, art, and music.

Similarities and contrasts – young and old, rich and poor, and too many more to name – have no bearing upon God's love for all. The very human-ness of God in the person of Jesus is the greatest demonstration of this love: God made touchable, conversational, and vulnerable. So, this Advent and Christmas season we rejoice similarly in the glory and the humility (note the progression of the text of the Gloria) – the contrast – of such a gift.

Peace,
Jason Charneski

DEDICATIONS

The white rose at the lectern is in honor of the birth of
Walter Frederick Russell, born on December 6, grandson of Suzanne and Charley Davies

In Memoriam
Adeline (Lynn) H. Leech, December 10.
Mother of Carolyn, grandmother of Parker and Honour, and mother-in-law of Christopher Russell.

TODAY

Festive Reception, 11:15 a.m., Assembly Room
Confirmation, 5:00 p.m., Westminster Room
High School Youth Group Dinner & Caroling, 6:00 p.m., Assembly Room
Men's Bible Study, 8:00 p.m., Library/Zoom

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, December 16

11:00 a.m. Stephen Leaders – Conference Room

7:30 p.m. Trustees – Westminster/Zoom

Wednesday, December 17

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

7:30 p.m. Session – Westminster Room

Thursday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop

Saturday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party

Sunday, December 21

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

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Reception – Sanctuary and Assembly Room

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service – Chapel

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/



CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service with Live Nativity and Candle Lighting

3:30 p.m. – In-Person only

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Congregational Carols

5:00 p.m. – In-Person & Live-Streamed, with Rev. Pattison preaching

Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols, with string quartet and choir

9:45 p.m. – Prelude, 10:00 p.m. – In-Person & Live-Streamed, with Rev. Pattison preaching

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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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

Through carols and costumes, we will be sharing the Christmas story with our congregation. Our next rehearsal is on Wednesday, December 17, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., in the Westminster Room, and our Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party is on Saturday, December 20, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through Sunday, 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. To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering and how you can donate, please visit ryepc.com/article/christmas-joy-offering/

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/

CHAPEL YOGA

Wednesdays, December 17 and 24, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., in the Chapel. No meeting on December 31.

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.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

CRAWFORD CHAPEL ✦ WINTER

RPC's Crawford Chapel is adjacent to the Sanctuary



DECEMBER 21, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
Hope and Healing on the Longest Night of the Year



JANUARY 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.
Evening Prayer and Baptism Renewal

These monthly services, each approximately 40 minutes in duration, provide an opportunity to worship at the close of the day.

The intimacy of the chapel, coupled with its warm acoustics and decorative flexibility, enables clarity and resonance in the sung and spoken word.

Activities will be available for children
up through 3rd Grade in the Library

O Promised One of Israel

Forest Green



1 O prom-ised one of Is - ra - el by proph-ets long fore -
2 In si - lent suf - f'ring some a - wait your reign of jus - tice
3 Cre - a - tion stands a - lert and tense to see your sov - 'reign



told, we wait in ur - gen - cy and hope to
here, while oth - ers, duced by wealth and ease, can
pow'r. You choose to come a ti - ny child re -



see God's will un - fold. The dark of night and
not ex - plain their fear. When proph - ets spoke and
vealed this day and hour. O grant us pa - tience



Text: Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008)
Music: English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); alt.

cold pre - dawn a - rouse our anx - ious fears.
 Ma - ry sang of ta - bles o - ver - turned,
 to re - ceive with - out pre - tense or pride

Help us to see the light a - head through tri - als, doubts, and tears.
 dare we ad - mit, in trem - bling awe, our hearts with - in us burned?
 the gift of God's re - deem - ing grace: a Sav - ior by our side.



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Rockport [All Hail to God's Anointed]

Music: Thomas Tertius Noble

Music © 1941 United Church Press (admin. The Pilgrim Press).

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Holy God

Text transl. Bishop Nareg Alemejian

Text transl. © 2009 Bishop Nareg Alemejian of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

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O Promised One of Israel [Forest Green]

Text: Jane Parker Huber Music harm. (st. 3): Noel Rawsthorne

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Music arr. © 1991 Kevin Mayhew, Ltd. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



CHURCH STAFF

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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.

