

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Prelude on *Cranham* (In the Bleak Midwinter)

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

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

*O Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.*

(Simeon's words, upon first holding baby Jesus, from Luke 2)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we light all the Advent candles, celebrating these twelve days of Christmas, and the light of Jesus' birth.

People: Let every heart prepare him room.

Pastor: Jesus, God-with-us, Emmanuel: may he be born anew in our lives each day.

People: Let every heart prepare him room.

Pastor: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king.

All: Let every heart prepare him room, and wonders, and wonders of his love. Amen.

✦ HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all joy, we know the feeling of trusting in a promise, waiting to see it fulfilled. We confess we don't often understand how your word of hope works. There are things we think you're calling us to or pointing us toward, that may not materialize. Things may not pan out the way we thought they would. Forgive our impatience, Lord. We admit we can be quick to lose heart, swift to sink into cynicism, and prone to wondering whether you even care.

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

✦ *please stand as you are able*

Holy Spirit, pray for us. Intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. Remind us that your promise still holds, even when it seems slow to unfold. Open our eyes to see signs of Jesus, born among us, the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see. Help us look to his light, that it may enlighten our spirits and soften us into sensing your glory. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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 BIRDIE ANNE DAVIES, LEO JAMES RUSSELL III, AND WALTER FREDERICK RUSSELL

(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 Birdie, Leo, and Walter, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members 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 Birdie, Leo, and Walter, that they 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 children of the light.

RESPONSE *(sung by all)*

Baptized in Water

Bunessan

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

**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. Saward, 1981

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Douglas Carey, *lay reader*

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Isaiah 63:7-9
(Pew Bible, page 693)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40
(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 59)

HOMILY

“Waiting on the Promise”

Rev. Pattison

THE RESPONSE

✦ HYMN 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W żłobie leży

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.

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 ORGAN

Aria on *Humility* (See amid the Winter’s Snow)

Malcolm Archer

✦ 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 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN

Improvisation on *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

*Coffee Hour will be held in the Assembly Room following worship.
(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

Sally Adler, Edward Avery Jr., and Fallys Ngalauka, *Ushers*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 4

8:45 a.m. Moms’ Bible Study – Conference Room
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Warm-Up – Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Chapel

GENERAL NOTICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

There's no Sunday School today, December 28. We'll resume on January 4.

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/



MOMS' BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, resuming January 4, 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. 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 DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Tuesdays, resuming January 6, 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, resuming January 7, 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.

THRIFT SHOP

Thursdays, resuming January 8, 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.

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/

RYE YMCA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION

Sunday, January 11, at 11:30 a.m., in the Westminster Room

Rye YMCA CEO Sabrina Murphy will meet with interested RPC members on Sunday, January 11 after coffee hour to share the Y's plans for a full-day, licensed child care center at the former All Souls Church in Port Chester. The meeting will be held in the Westminster Room.

Previously owned by Rye Presbyterian Church, the All Souls building was sold to the Rye Y in July of this year after extensive talks around our mutual goal of providing affordable child care in Port Chester, a child care desert. The Rye Y is a highly-regarded provider of child care programs and has developed plans to fully renovate the building to serve up to 103 infants and young children.

Join us to learn more about this exciting project!

COMING HOME 2026

Coming Home is an expression of our long-standing Prison Ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. We seek to empower those who are returning to the community following incarceration.

Congregants can serve as dinner cooks and hosts, volunteer as mentors, or join in our weekly Thursday night dinners in the Westminster Room - making a real difference in the lives of formerly incarcerated persons. If you're interested in serving in any of these roles, or finding out more information, stay tuned for our forthcoming orientation session in January (date TBD). Our program begins in earnest on Thursday evening, February 12, and will conclude with graduation on Sunday, June 7.

For more information, or to better understand the philosophy of this ministry, please contact our RPC Coming Home Liaison and Dinner Coordinator Douglas Carey, or Pastor Cari Pattison, Minister Liaison to Mission and Outreach. You may reach out to Doug via email at poningoeearthcare@gmail.com, or by phone at 914-565-6748. Cari may be reached at cpattison@ryepc.com or 914-967-0842 x14.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

CRAWFORD CHAPEL ✦ WINTER

RPC's Crawford Chapel is adjacent to the Sanctuary



JANUARY 11, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

Evening Prayer and Baptism Renewal



FEBRUARY 1, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

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
in Pre-K through 3rd Grade in the Library



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Prelude on *Cranham*; Aria on *Humility*

Music: Malcolm Archer

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Baptized in Water

Text: Michael A. Seward Music: Gaelic melody, arr. Dale Grotenhuis

Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).

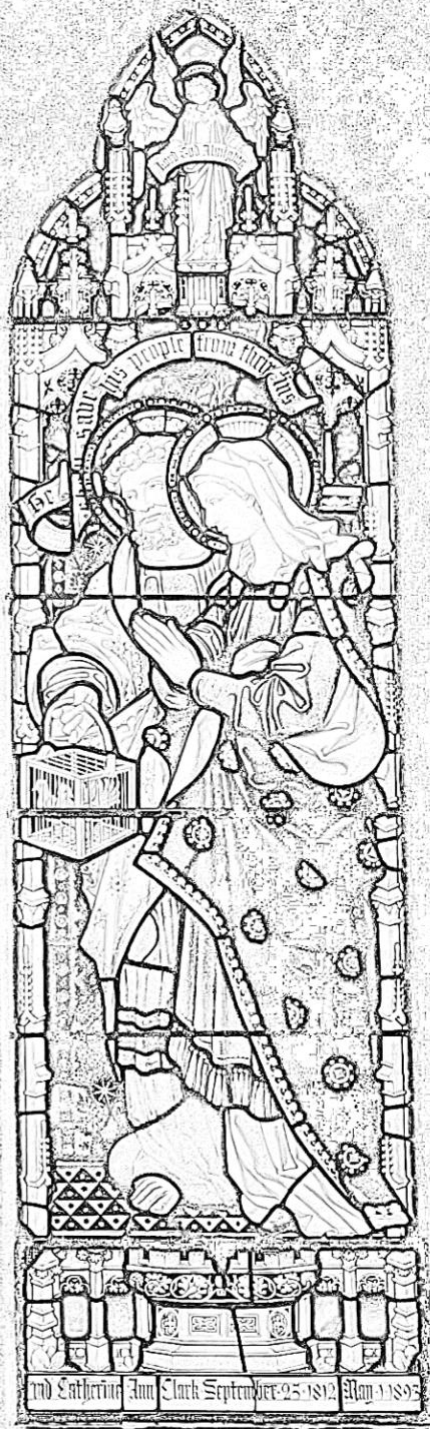
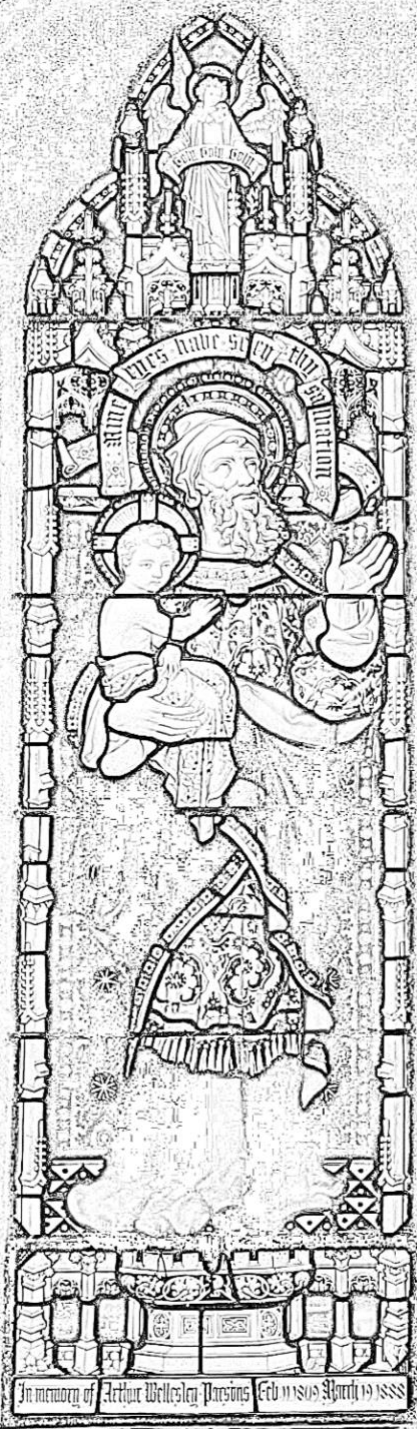
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Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Music arr. John W. Work Music harm. Melva Wilson Costen

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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.

