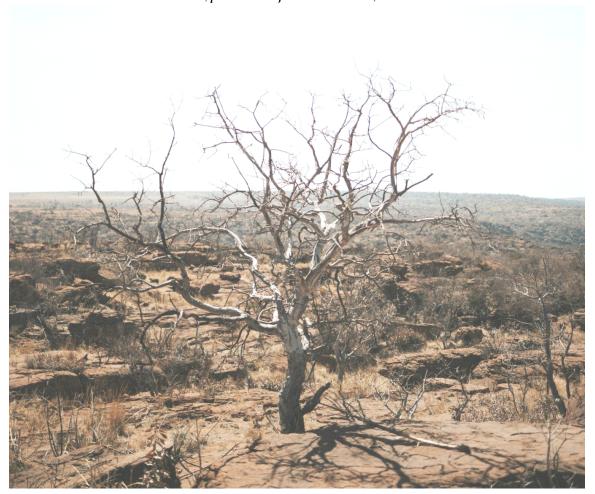
Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church *makes Christ known* by *welcoming all people* to a *supportive and accepting place* to *grow in faith* and community and to *serve the Lord* as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher, if they would like a follow up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward. We offer either wine or juice and gluten-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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Third Sunday in Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may stand and make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us turn our hearts and minds toward God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Compassionate One,
- you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our \boldsymbol{C} lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We fail to fight for the freedom of others, although you have freed us. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth that you have given us to steward. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross, Amen.
- P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

\boldsymbol{C} Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- who bring them long for nur ture; by your milk may we be fed. how deep your ho ly wis dom! Un im ag ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we liv-ing bread. wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born. We



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, By your grace, our lives we of - fer. ho - ly dove and heart's de - light. by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

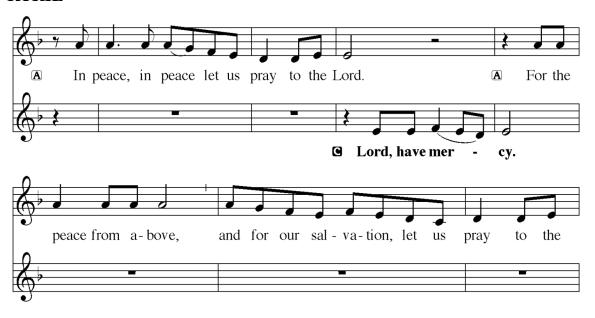
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P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE







- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Eternal God,
- C Your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

L A reading from Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your

labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 63:1–8

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- 5 My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

L A reading from 1st Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single

day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand, as able, and sing.



@ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci - ful,



THE GOSPEL Luke 13:1–9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

- *P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter:
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-do vou think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

- *P* The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

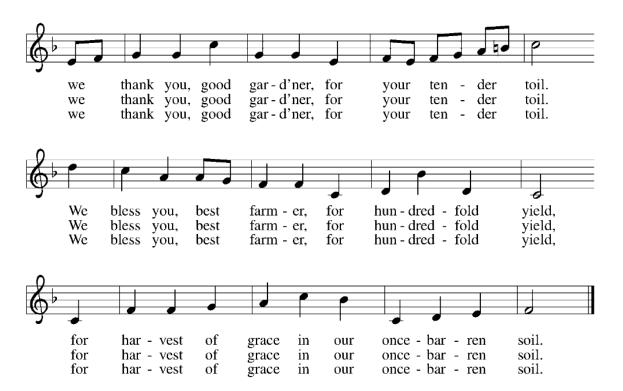
SERMON

As Rain from the Clouds ELW 508

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand, as able, and sing.





Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

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APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A God of hope, we give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of wisdom, we pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and discernment to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions, and draw from your strength in living them out. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer

A God of growth, we pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of righteousness, we pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live and thrive. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer

A God of compassion, we pray for those in need. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict or actions. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Susan & William, Scott, Audrey, Tara, George, Sibylle, Leslie, Hailey, Kate, Dawn, Elle & Heinz, Ellen, and Vicki. (Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of unity, we pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Abiding Peace @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake



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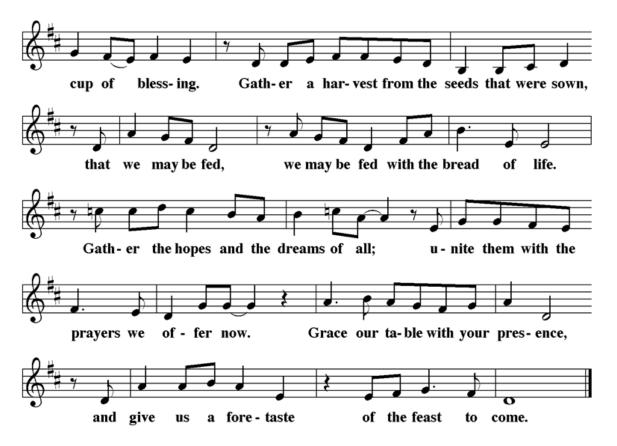
CHOIR ANTHEM

Meditation at the Cross

Words by Issac Watts Music by Douglas E. Wagner

Please stand, as you are able

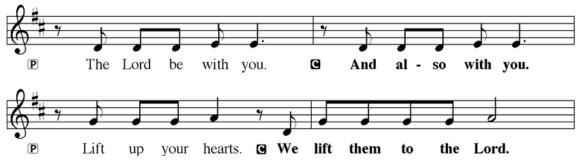


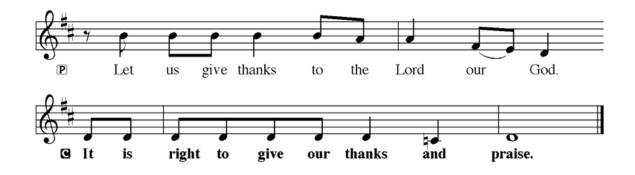


A Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

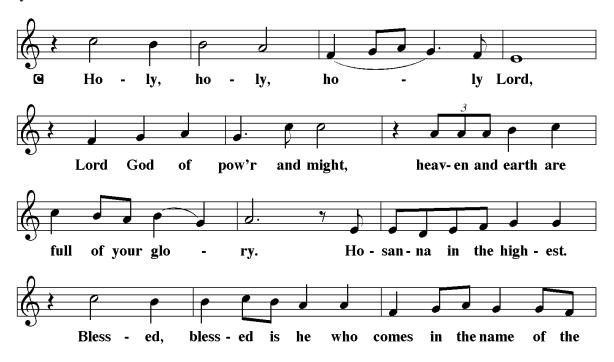
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- *P* Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
- C Amen. Amen. Amen.

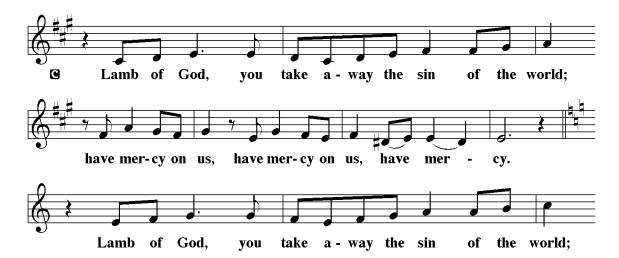
THE LORD'S PRAYER

- *P* Jesus, teach us to pray:
- C 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

- *P* All who are hungry, come!
- C We come to the feast of grace.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please hold your hand flat for the bread and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.





have mer-cy on us, havemer-cy on us, have mer cy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

for

grant us peace.

least,

COMMUNION HYMN

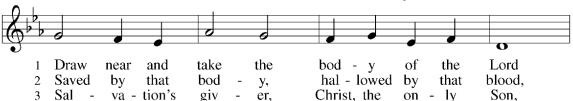
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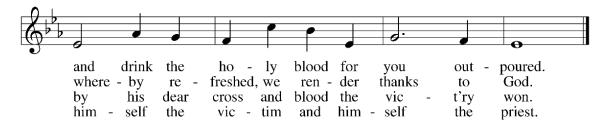
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord LBW 226

and

for

great - est





- 5 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere. and take the pledges of salvation here.
- 6 He who his saints in this world rules and shields. to all believers life eternal yields,
- 7 With heav'nly bread makes those who hunger whole, gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
- 8 The judge eternal, unto whom shall bow all nations at the last, is with us now.

Text: Latin hymn, 7th cent.: tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: COENA DOMINI, Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

Of

fered was

Stand, if you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Generous Host,

C you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BENEDICTION

C Amen.

Please be seated.

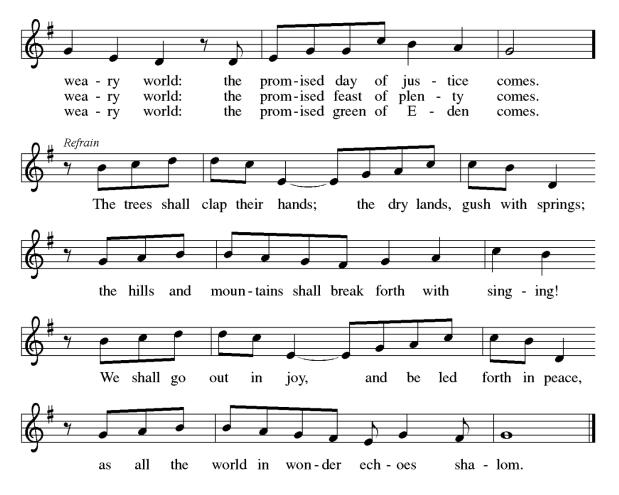
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World ELW 726

All stand, as able, and sing.





Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Light Dawns on a Weary World

William P. Rowan



Our musician today, Dorian, has been performing professionally for 20 years. He has written music for PBS, MTV, z100 radio station, moviefone.com, and even received Emmy-recognition for his work with PBS. Dorian currently teaches privately and at the Piano Workshop at Chester. He is the House Pianist for the Graycliff Manor and the Grove, and plays weddings and special events for Sweet Harmony Music, Ceremonius Strings, and Ambrosia Ensembles. Dorian also plays piano for Christian Science Church of Summit.

Next Week's Lessons: Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Cor. 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Serving in Worship		
	Today, Sun. 3/23	Next Week, Sun3/30
Altar Guild	Sibylle Schroeder	Sibylle Schroeder
Counter	Sandy Carlson	Howard Corneilson
Assistant Minister	Sue Stirrat	Doug Laird
Lector	Doug Laird	Demetria Laird
Communion Assist.	Sibylle Schroeder	Cindy Pawlo
Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Mary Kasakove	Sibylle Schroeder
Soloist	Maria Jerez	Quinn Rice
Livestream Assistant	Ray Mueller	Tyler Rice

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Wed. 3/26: 10:00am-4:00pm; Thursday, 3/27: 4:00pm-9:00pm; Sun 3/30: 9:00am-1:00pm **Erin Porter:** Thurs. 3/27, 1:00-3:00, 6:30-7:30

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Aimee Nilsen, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, Tara Woodard-Lehman, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Elle & Heinz and family, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Mary Lee & Steve Fenster, Darrell Senior.

Those in mourning: The friends and family of Kenneth Johanson; the friends and family of Harold Olsen; The Persson Family on the loss of Carrin (daughter of Jan, sister of Krista); The family of Woody Woodruff; The family of Cecile Hopkins; The loved ones of Charlie Bertz (friend of Sibylle's); The family of Papa Joe (Christine's father); The Schroeder & Zwicker families (for the loss of Michael, his mother Elizabeth, and Sibyller's mother and father Margret and Rolf), The friends and family of Nancy Appel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ~ Church office hours: During Lent, Pastor Serena will generally hold office hours on Thursdays and Sundays. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.
- ~ Food Pantry Needs: Canned fruit, canned vegetables juice, hot-dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten free pasta.
- ~ Altar Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Erin Porter with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ Interested in hosting a coffee hour? Not hard. Just bring some store bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, March 23:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Little Learner's Sunday School
- Lenten Forum: Exploring Our Wisdom, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, March 24:

Tuesday, March 25:

Wednesday, March 26:

- Mt Olive Clergy Association, 1:00 p.m.
- AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 27:

- Newsletter deadline
- Soup Supper, 6:15 pm
- Midweek Lenten Service, 7:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, March 28:

Saturday, March 29:

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, March 30:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- (After service event)

Monday, March 31:

•

Tuesday, April 1:

•

Wednesday, April 2:

• AA Meeting

Thursday, April 3:

- Soup Supper, 6:15 pm
- Midweek Lenten Service, 7:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, April 4:

Saturday, April 5:

Upcoming Events

Child Safety Training: April 6, 11:30am

Worship & Music Committee Meeting: April 7, 10:00am

Holy Week Services: April 17, 18, and 19: 7:30pm; Seder Dinner April 17, 6:30pm

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live