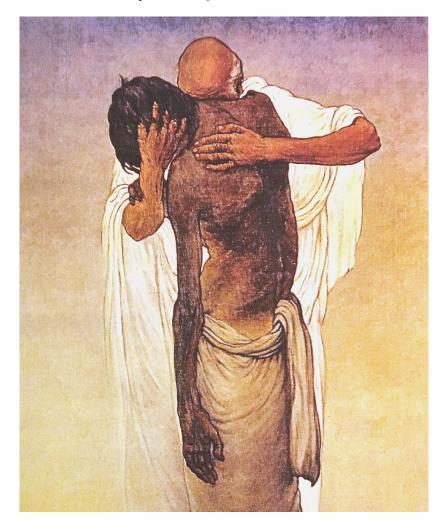
Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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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Fourth Sunday in Lent

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

PRELUDE Chorale and Three Variations on HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

Hans Leo Hassler arr. John Carter

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, + 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.

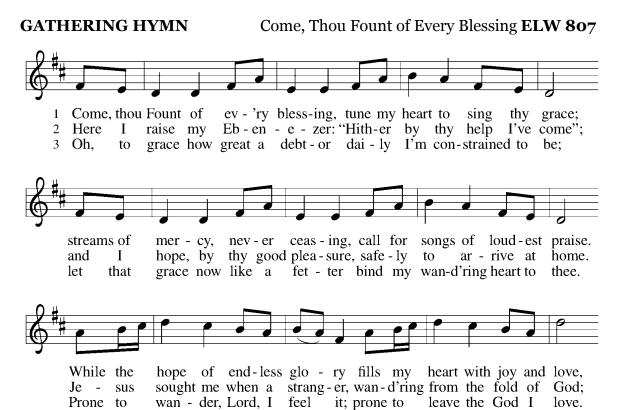
Silence is kept for reflection.

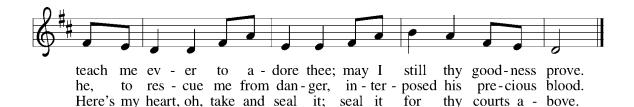
P Compassionate One,

C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our 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 \oplus Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.



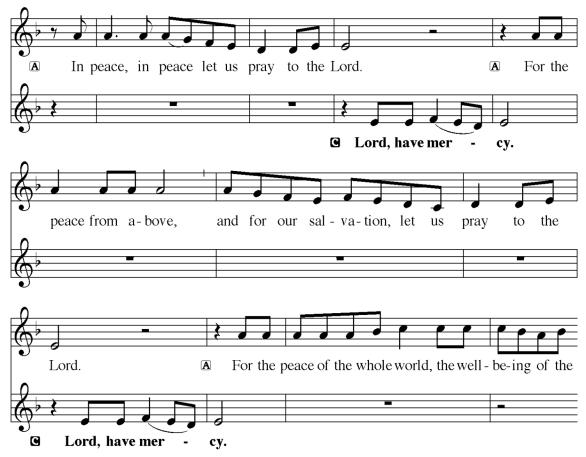


Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt. Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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. God of compassion,

C You welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

L A reading from Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

THE PSALM

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! Psalm 32

Joshua 5:9–12

- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

- 7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
- 9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

10 Great are the tribulations of the wicked;but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

THE SECOND READING

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

L A reading from 2nd Corinthians.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

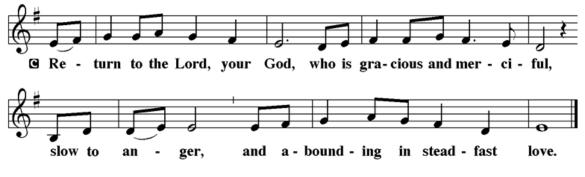
counting himself. not their to against them, trespasses and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be

reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand, as able, and sing.



THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country. who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

Please be seated.

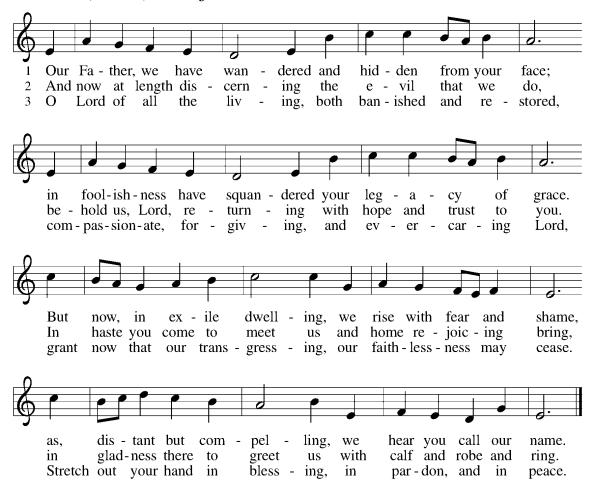
CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN OF THE DAY

SERMON

Our Father, We Have Wandered ELW 606

Please stand, as able, and sing.



Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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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 resurrection life, open your loving arms to welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, service and advocacy, your church may bear witness to your love and join in your work of healing the world. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth that has been marred by selfishness and short-sightedness. As we work to reverse the harm of climate change, send rain to places of drought and recovery to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of prodigal grace, unite the nations to remember that all humanity are members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of boundless love, receive with fatherly arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who are burdened by regret or shame. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Carol, Mary Lee & Steve, Darrell, Bill, Joshua, Jon, Cheryl, Judy, Jon & Maria, Sandy, Karen, Jim, and Otto. (*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 radical inclusion, empower us to widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, LGBTQ+ ministries, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. 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

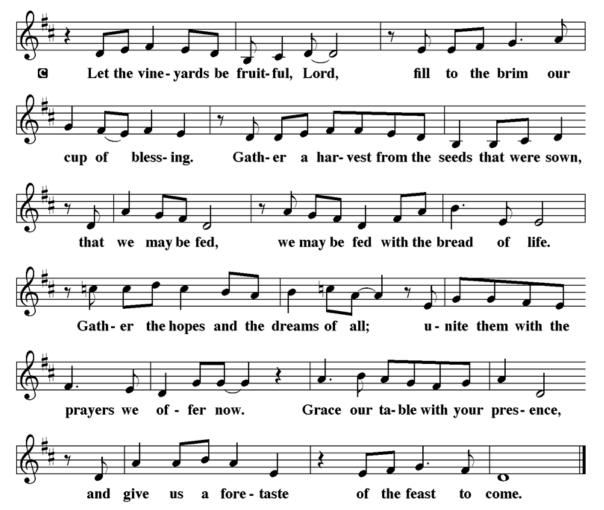
Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

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

OFFERTORY

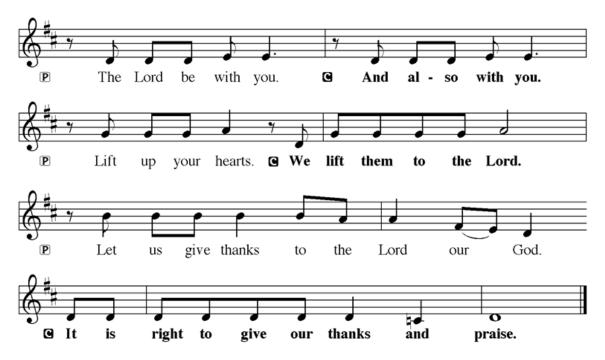
Please stand, as you are able





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.

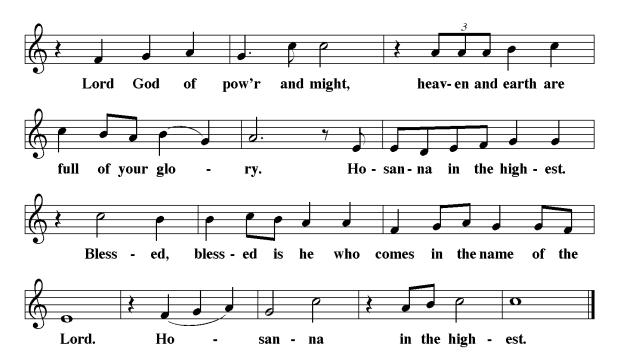
C Amen.



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.





Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889; tr. T. W. Speaks Music: AQUI DEL PAN PARTIDO TOMARÉ, José Ruiz, b. 1956 Music © 1989 Augsburg Fortress

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

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, \pm bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

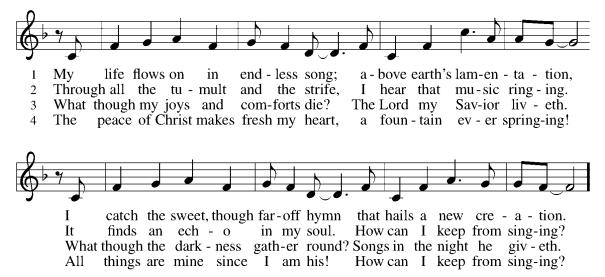
Please be seated.

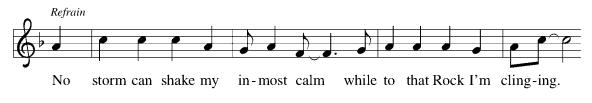
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

My Life Flows On in Endless Song ELW 763

All stand, as able, and sing.







Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

DISMISSAL

- *A* Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Moonlight Sonata, Mvt. 2 Ludwig van Beethoven

-ಎಲ್ಲಿಲಾ

Michael has been playing the piano since he was 7 years old and Ben has been his instructor for the last several years. He plays piano and percussion in various school bands. Michael is currently in the Honors Wind Symphony at school and recently played the marimba in the New Jersey Region and All State Bands.

Next Week's Lessons:	Serving in Worship		
Isaiah 43:16-21		Today, Sun. 3/30	Next Week, Sun.4/6
Psalm 126	Altar Guild	Sibylle Schroeder	Mary Kasakove
Philippians 3:4b-14	Counter	Howard Corneilson	Ursula Schroeder
John 12:1-8	Assistant Minister	Doug Laird	Maria Jerez
	Lector	Demetria Laird	Sue Stirrat
	Communion Assist.	Cindy Pawlo	George Pawlo
	Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Sibylle Schroeder	Mary Kasakove
	Soloist	Quinn Rice	TBA
	Livestream Assistant	Tyler Rice	Sheeba David

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Art:Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Forgiving Father, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59207 [retrieved March 24, 2025]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, March 30:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Lenten Forum: Exploring Our Wisdom, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, March 31:

Tuesday, April 1:

• Faith Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p,m.

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:

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, April 6:

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

Monday, April 7:

• Worship & Music committee, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, April 8:

Wednesday, April 9:

- Unfinished Objects Gathering, 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
- AA Meeting

Thursday, April 10:

- Rain garden meeting, 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.
- Soup Supper, 6:15 pm
- Mid-week Lenten Service, 7:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Friday, April 11:

Saturday, April 12:

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting: April 13: 6:00pm

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