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*



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 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 your contact information with the greeter, if you 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, or come forward at the end for the common cup. 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. You are also welcome to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are's" and the "woe to's" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

PRELUDE

The Prayer

Carole Bayer Sager, David Foster

GATHERING

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

GREETING

Please stand, if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

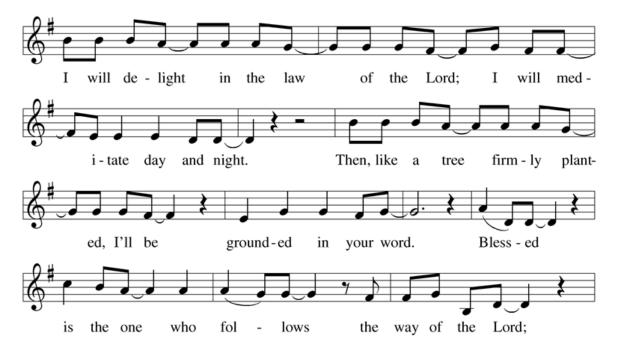
C you reveal your will and speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and false perceptions and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

I Will Delight W&P 72



Text: Walt Harrah and John Schreiner Music: IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, Walt Harrah and John Schreiner

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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

vou a-lone

are the Ho-ly One,

you a-lone

For

P The Lord be with you.

re-ceive our prayer.

- C And also with you.
- *P* Let us pray. Living God,

C in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

THE FIRST READING

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing: the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse: the power of death.

L A reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live

Jeremiah 17:5-10

in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse —who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 1

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

- 4 It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

L A reading from 1st Corinthians.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

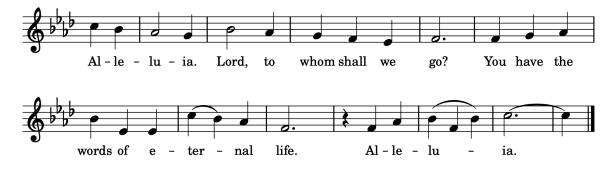
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

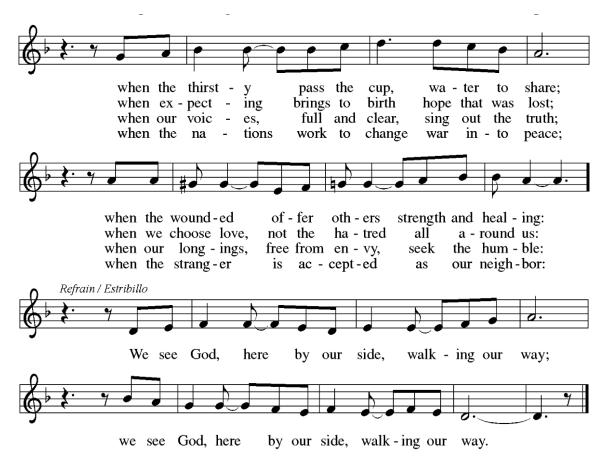
HYMN OF THE DAY

All stand and sing. noth - ing, still are who have giv - ing; When the poor ones, 1 con - so - la - tion: When com - pas - sion suf - f'ring gives the 2 When our spir - its, brim with glad - ness; like chal - ice. 3 а When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings; 4

When the Poor Ones ELW 725

Rev. Lorna Woodham

9



Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951 Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934 Text and music © 1971, 1998

THE 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 INTERCESSION

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A God of blessings, Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to us and to all the living. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Blessed is creation. As the earth that you made in love experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Blessed are the nations that practice your justice and mercy. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant them wisdom in the face of challenges and courage to serve the needs of all they are charged to serve, that they may delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Karen & Ken, David, Charles, Patricia, Alia, Aimee, Lydia, Dean, April, Bella, Bodhi, Barbara, Susan, and William. (*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 of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage and strength in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that you promise to provide for the needs of your people.

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 stand and 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Take My Life and Let It Be

Matthew Armstrong

Conductor: Erin Porter

OFFERTORY

All stand, as able, and sing.



Abiding Peace @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake





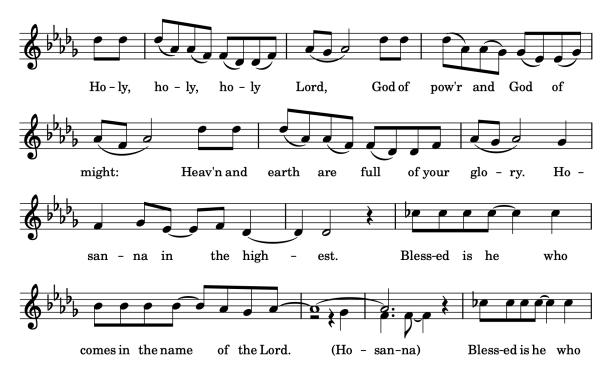
A God of grace,

C your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- *P* The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- *P* Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- *P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- *C* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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 Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites, and through them all people, to cherish as your own. While we were estranged and dying, you adopted us to live in your Spirit by calling to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

P With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others,

and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

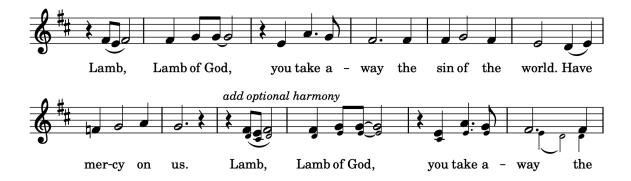
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

P The joy of the Lord is our strength.

C We come to eat this meal of gladness.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, 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.





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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 Nourishing God,

C at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food, drink, and your true presence. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.



SENDING

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

THE BENEDICTION

P The Spirit of the triune God \oplus bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

I Shall Not Be Moved TFF 147

All stand and sing.





Text African American spiritual Music: I SHALL NOT BE MOVED, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

- *A* Go in peace. Live in Hope.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Praise Band



Next Week's Lessons:

Genesis 45:3-11

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

Serving in Worship		
	Today, 2/16	Next Week, 2/23
Altar Guild		
Counter	Sandy Carlson	Anna Santino
Assistant Minister	Mary Kasakove	Sibylle Schroeder
Lector	Doug Laird	Roy Persson
Communion Assist.	George Pawlo	Maria Jerez
Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Cindy Pawlo	Howard Corneilson
Soloist	Maria Jerez	George Pawlo
Livestream Assistant	Sheeba David	Nick Senior

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Sunday, 2/23, 9:00am-1:00pm **Erin:** Thursday, 2/20, 9:00-12:00

For Pastoral Emergencies while Pastor Serena is away (Feb. 15-Feb 21), please contact Pastor Karol VanWulfen: (908) 689-1976

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, Nancy Appel, Elle & Heinz and family, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Ursula Schroeder, 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 family of Vera Reybitz; The family of Neil Nilsen (father of Heather Nilsen).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ **Church office hours:**, Pastor Serena will hold office hours on Wednesdays or Thursdays and Sundays, as indicated in the weekly bulletin. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). Our office administrator, Erin, is in the office on Thursday mornings, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

~ **Food Pantry Needs for December:** Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, 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, February 16:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Conversation about Re-entry Ministry with Pastor Lorna, 11:15 a.m.

Monday, February 17:

Tuesday, February 18:

Wednesday, February 19:

- A.A. 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Practices zoom study, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, February 20:

• Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 21:

Saturday, February 22:

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, February 23:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Forum on Adult Learning Interests at APLC, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, February 24:

Tuesday, February 25:

Wednesday, February 26:

- A.A. 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Practices zoom study, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, February 27:

- Newsletter Deadline
- Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 28:

Saturday, March 1:

Upcoming Events

- Church Council meeting Sunday, March 2, 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, March 5, 7:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Drakestown United Methodist Church

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