

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Introduction-Improvisation on *Seachrist*

This tune, likely new to many, is printed in the hymnal at no. 778. Note that it serves as the vehicle for the hymn (the text) printed there, As Pants the Deer for Living Streams, which we will sing following the Affirmation of Faith.

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

*God of all,
be gracious and answer us.
Treat us generously and with kindness,
and be our help.*

CHORAL INTROIT

Rend Your Heart

Alec Wyton (1921-2007); adapt.

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God:
for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.

-Joel 2:13

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

People: The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that God has made.

All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have ignored your truth, neglected justice, and failed in love.

Silent prayers of confession are offered.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON *(sung by the choir)*

John L. Bell (b. 1949); adapt.

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

-Greek, 5th/6th century

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

People: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE *(sung by all, two times)*

Jacques Berthier, 1984

The musical notation is written for two systems, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1:
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

System 2:
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

-Taizé Community; based on Psalm 103:1

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children age 4 through 5th grade may now leave to go to the Westminster Room for Enrichment Activities.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Andrea O'Meara, *lay reader*

PSALM 27 (*read responsively*)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek God in the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message — “Seek my face.”

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away — you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

**Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

This I believe — that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD and be strong.

Take heart and wait for the LORD!

after each reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:31-35
(Pew Bible, New Testament, page 77)

SERMON

"Count Us In"

Rev. Love

THE RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *The Study Catechism*)

What do you understand by God's providence?

That God not only preserves the world, but also continually attends to it, ruling and sustaining it with wise and benevolent care. In particular, God provides for the world by bringing good out of evil, so that nothing evil is permitted to occur that God does not bend finally to the good.

What comfort do you receive by trusting in God's providence?

The eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ watches over me each day of my life, blessing and guiding me wherever I may be. God strengthens me when I am faithful, comforts me when discouraged or sorrowful, raises me up if I fall, and brings me at last to eternal life. Entrusting myself wholly to God's care, I receive the grace to be patient in adversity, thankful in the midst of blessing, courageous against injustice, and confident that no evil afflicts me that God will not turn to my good.

*HYMN 778

As Pants the Deer for Living Streams

Seachrist

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Let My Prayer

Benjamin Rauch (b. 1981)

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

-Psalm 141:2

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (Please visit ryepc.com/give/ or scan the QR Code in our announcements to give online.)

ANTHEM FOR CHOIR AND SOLO VOICE

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott, 1999

Susan Chassagnoux, soprano

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

-John 3:16

***LENTEN HYMN OF PRESENTATION**

Rockingham

These words, with the music included, are printed in the hymnal at no. 652, stanza 1.

**A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.
Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.**

-David Gambrell, 2009

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE SENDING FORTH

***HYMN 816**

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Wer nur den lieben Gott

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN (*All are invited into the chancel to listen to the postlude.*)

Fugue in D Minor [op. 37, no. 3/ii]

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church

If you are a guest today, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time of worship. You may 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.

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.

The sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop assistive listening system. To access the system, please switch your hearing aid setting to “T” (telephone).

Participating in worship:

Natalie Hofmann, *crucifer*

Edward Avery, Christoph Hofmann, Susan Morison, and Margaret Sculti, *ushers*

In Memoriam

Yvonne Paris, March 5, 2025

TODAY

Coffee Hour will take place in the Assembly Room.

New Member Class, 11:00 a.m., Library

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Chapel

Youth Leaders Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Westminster Room

THIS WEEK

Monday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Monday Morning Bible Study – Zoom

Tuesday, March 18

10:00 a.m. Women's Association Grants Committee – Library

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

Wednesday, March 19

3:45 p.m. Stories and Songs for Children – Westminster Room

5:30 p.m. Middle School Connection – Youth Rooms

Thursday, March 20

10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop

5:30 p.m. Coming Home – Library / Westminster Room

7:00 p.m. West Coast Swing Dance Class – Assembly Room

GENERAL NOTICES

NEW MEMBER WELCOME DISCUSSION

Today (March 16), Following Worship

All those interested in exploring what it means to be a member of the church are invited to take part in a New Member discussion session. We will meet today (March 16), immediately following worship, in the church library. Childcare will be available as needed.

In this class, we will explore what it means to actively live out our faith together as a part of this particular church. In addition to today's session, for those choosing to join the church, there will be a meeting with the leadership of the church on Sunday evening, **March 30, at 7:00 p.m.** This is a time to meet the officers of the church and for the Session to welcome the group to official church membership. Public welcome and recognition of the new members will take place during worship on **Sunday, April 6.**

EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC



We invite you to join in celebrating Easter Sunday by making a donation toward our Easter Flowers and Music. All gifts received by **Monday, March 31** will be gratefully acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. *(Please note that on our envelopes, the deadline is incorrectly listed as Monday, March 10.)*

Donate by Cash/Check

Within the sanctuary, you will find Easter Flowers and Music envelopes available. Checks should indicate "Flowers & Music" made payable to RPC at Rye Presbyterian Church 882 Boston Post Rd, Rye, NY 10580. Please place your sealed envelope in the offering plate, or deliver it to the church office.

Donate Online

To donate online, please visit ryepc.com/worship/easter-flowers-and-music/, or scan the QR Code attached to this announcement.

If you have any questions, please contact Max Crawley at mcrawley@ryepc.com.





WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLASSES

Please note the new time!

Every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. in the RPC Assembly Room

Taught by Dance Instructor Christopher Bledsoe

\$20/person/session – all levels welcome!

www.westie-night-out.com/

Brought to RPC by the Fellowship and Formation Committee.

Contact Carol Love at cloveny5@gmail.com for more information.



COMING HOME

Coming Home seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. The 18-week program offers several volunteer opportunities, including serving as mentors who are paired with participants, as well as cooks who prepare and serve the evening meal. If you are interested in serving contact Program Coordinator, Kevin Bunch, at 914-473-2221 or by email at savedmedic2001@yahoo.com; or Mission and Outreach Committee Liaison, Douglas Carey, at 914-565-6748 or by email at poningoeearthcare@gmail.com.



SPECIAL OFFERING – LENT 2025

One Great Hour of Sharing and LA Fire Relief



With the blessing of Session, the RPC Mission and Outreach Committee has decided to split this year's Lenten special offering.

50% will go to direct LA fire relief primarily through the Bel Air Presbyterian Church. Through conversations with their pastor, we have learned of their work not only with families in their own church who lost their homes, but with churches and people in both Pacific Palisades and Altadena. The ashes of Ash Wednesday this year were a sign of our connection and commitment to those for whom much of life has turned to ash.

The other 50% will go to the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four annual special offerings in which we participate. Our participation in this special offering supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Your gifts to this year's Lenten offering put our faith in action, and are a visible sign of our commitment to those in need throughout the world.

For more information on the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, visit pcusa.org/oghs.

Envelopes are in the pews on Sunday or checks may be sent to the church office. Please note "Lent Offering" on the memo line. You may also donate through RPC at ryepc.com/lent-special-offering/.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR

PLEASE JOIN US ON

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

FOR A SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TO
WELCOME OUR NEW CO-PASTOR

CARI PATTISON

A LIGHT BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED



STEPHEN MINISTRY & CARING CONNECTIONS TRAINING Information Session on Sunday, March 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Library



Have you considered being a Stephen Minister or Friendly Visitor, but do not know what they do?

Please join us for an information session to learn more about RPC's Caring Connections training, based on the well-known Stephen Ministry training. This training equips congregation members to serve as Stephen Ministers or Friendly Visitors. This meeting is open to all parishioners interested in RPC's Stephen Ministry.

Sunday, March 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

RPC Library

Hosted by the RPC Stephen Leadership Team

A light lunch will be provided!

Please contact Debbie Zingg at debbie.zingg@gmail.com to RSVP and/or to get more information.

Read more about our training at ryepc.com/ministries/stephen-ministry/.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in the Library

RPC Women's Discipleship Group meets from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the church library. We will be starting a new book study in early April. All are welcome to jump in at anytime. Please contact Alicia Baldwin at alicia.baldwin@verizon.net or Courtney Bennett at courtneybennett910@gmail.com with any questions.

RPC RUNS

We're introducing a new program at RPC!
Join us for our first run on Friday, March 21, at 6:00 a.m.

Friday mornings at 6:00 a.m.

We will start running at 6:00 a.m. from the RPC parking lot.
3 mile loop to Rye Town Park that finishes back at RPC.

Please show up 5-10 minutes early
if you would like to stretch and warm up.

This will be very relaxed... run at your own pace
and do what works for you! All are welcome!

Organized by Jordy Winslow. For more information,
email jordywinslow@gmail.com, or call 203-246-5690.

RPC Runs



YOUTH SERVICE TRIP BINGO

Sunday, April 6, following worship, Assembly Room

On Sunday, April 6, we will have our annual fundraiser to help support the Youth Service Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation! Our proceeds will go towards scholarships and trip fees, as well as an additional donation to the Re-Member program. There will be prizes for lucky winners! RSVP below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FABAF2CA4FCC52-55436737-youth>

YOUTH SPRING CLEANUP PROJECT

Saturday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will be partnering with the Westchester Parks Foundation for a spring cleanup projects at the Marshlands Conservancy, where we will be gathering debris, cleaning trails, and enjoying the outdoors together. Arrive dressed to work: closed toed shoes and long pants are required. Please RSVP online, as a signed waiver is needed to participate. Rain or shine, we're looking forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FABAF2CA4FCC52-55436737-youth>



GIVING AT RPC

Online donation options are available on our giving page, at 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.*



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 Halloin at ahalloin@ryepc.com.



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays, 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.
Regular Drop-Off Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

*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.*



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Rend Your Heart

Music: Alec Wyton

Music © 1957 Carl Fischer, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Kyrie eleison

Music: John L. Bell

Published in *Come, All You People: Shorter Songs for Worship*

Music © 1995 The Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.).

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Bless the Lord, My Soul

Music and Text: Jacques Berthier

Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.).

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As Pants the Deer for Living Streams (*Seachrist*)

Text: Ruth Duck Music: John D. Horman

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God So Loved the World

Music: Bob Chilcott

Music © 1999 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

A Grateful Heart

Text: David Gambrell

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