

Hurley Reformed Church
First Sunday After Christmas
December 29, 2024; 10:00am
Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Surely God is our salvation.

We will trust, and will not be afraid, for God is our strength and our might.

God will wipe away the tears from all faces.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God, for whom we have waited.

God will destroy the shroud cast over all peoples; God will swallow up death forever

It will be said on that day, You turn our mourning into dancing; you take off our sackcloth and clothe us with joy.

*HYMN OF APPROACH: #44 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Responsive)

Creating God, you fashioned a home of beauty for us to live in. But we have spoiled it with greed. Refusing to live within your dominion of shalom, we have ignored the needs of our fellow creatures. But we cannot ignore what our sin has wrought—pollution, poverty, oppression, abuse, violence, and extinction. Your people are hurting. Your planet cries out for justice. Forgive us, O God, and help us be the creatures you created us to be, that we may participate in your mending of creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

God is righteous and just and forgives the iniquity of all who repent. God's goodwill overflows toward us in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Through that child, who is our risen Lord, we claim God's mercy and are assured of pardon. Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONSIVE READING

Wrap us in the shawl of compassion, God of holiness,

So that this season of goodness and giving might last longer than the after-Christmas sales.

Slip our hands into the gloves of humility, Brother of the overlooked,

So we might join in your work of rebuilding communities, feeding the hungry, embracing the outsiders.

Teach us your patient ways, Wisdom from on high,

So we would learn to notice what we have in common with others, rather than what divides us;

So we might offer kindness in the face of bitterness and hurt.

May all we do with our hands, our hearts, our minds, our feet, our lives be done in the name of the One who came to be among us and show us the way.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

FIRST READING: **Psalm 77, selected verses**

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 2, selected verses**

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

SERMON: **"Lament, Repair, Community"**

RESPONSIVE HYMN #551 **"Once to Every Man and Nation"**

PASSING of the PEACE

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

You bless us with an abundance of gifts, God of this holy season, not as a reward for doing good, but as a means to reach out with healing to the broken, to clothe those who shiver in winter, and to bless others with the hope which has been ours. As we offer our gifts to you, we do so in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #473 **"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

COMMUNITY AFFIRMATION & BLESSING (RESPONSIVE)

We will choose life -- even though we feel inadequate to the task, to live a life that changes this world from a place of fear and despair, to a place of joyous peace; that changes this world from a place of retaliation, to a place of justice, forgiveness and grace.

In the face of tragedy, we choose life.

In the face of violence, we step forward in faith.

In the face of revenge, we choose justice.

In the face of fear and sadness, we choose community.

We will choose to take one step, each moment, each day, to prevail in spite of the world around us.

Welcome to Hurley Reformed Church!

With joy we welcome your presence among us today. Let the words of the psalmist set the tone of our worship: "Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name--joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:4-5 NSRV)

In Person and Zoom Worship happens at 10am!

Ushers assisting in the service are Linda Moon and Aileen Helsley

Please join us in Schadewald Hall after worship for refreshments! Thank you to The Constant Family for providing them.

Flowers on the alter are our Christmas Poinsettias

Leading us in song is Joy Pollard

Mission of the month is Angel Food East, Mitten Tree and Coat Drive

Reach out to those who need your support in their day to day needs:

Judy Bell (Terry Gaffken's mom) needs prayers; Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade; Lori Pinkham is in Wingate at Ulster; Terry Conlin; Shirley Burns

Audio recordings of the weekly sermon are available on our website, HurleyReformedChurch.org.



Hurley Reformed Church

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www.HurleyReformedChurch.org

Staff

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Tara Lockart- Church Secretary
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Hours: T,W,TH,F, 9-2

Treasurer - Arlene Cotich

Consistory 2024

Elders

Dennis Croswell, *Property & Maintenance*
Marilyn More
Glenn Decker, *Senior Elder*
Lisa Longto, *Clerk*
Linda Moon, *Missions*
Bill Baldinger

Deacons

Allan Dumas, *Finance*
Russ Voiglaender
Jeanne Quenzer, *Program & Activities*
Aileen Helsley, *Youth Ministry*
Dino Sumerano, *Worship*
Robert Kindt, *IT*

Rev. Charles E. Stickley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Stickley Gardens Columbarium . . . A sacred place of beauty and contemplation.
(Located on the south lawn of the church.)

The lone candle on the chancel is our Peace Candle. It represents this church's support for the men and women in military service, and our prayer that one day we will live in a world where their sacrifice is no longer needed.

Hurley Reformed Church Hurley, New York

The Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Minister of Word and Sacrament

Welcome

*May the doors of this church be wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a Father's care;
and narrow enough to shut out all envy and hate.*

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

#44 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not.
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with tenthousand beside!

Refrain:

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All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

#551 Once to Every Man and Nation

1. Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, some great decision,
Off'ring each the bloom or blight;
And the choice goes by forever,
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

2. Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
And 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses,
While the coward stands a side,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.
3. By the light of burning martyrs,
Christ, Thy bleeding feet we track;
Toiling up new Calv'ries ever
With the cross that turns not back.
New occasions teach new duties;
Ancient values test our youth.
They must upward still and onward,
Who would keep a breast of truth.
4. Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet the Truth alone is strong;
Tho' her portion be the scaffold,
Ans up on the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above his own.

#473 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Announcements-December 29, 2024

Thank you to Rev. Ruth Kent for leading us in worship today.

We had a very successful coat drive this year. We collected 94 coats and jackets. We delivered coat to Family of Woodstock, Peoples Place, Crossroads Church, and the high school. In addition, we were able to give quite a few coats to Rev. Sara for her church, Odyssey Church. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Misson for December will be the Angle Food East. We will also have a mitten tree for people to place mittens, hats and gloves on and in our basket we will collect gently wore coats. Thank you for remembering those in need of our help and support.

Reminder: There will be no Sunday School on December 29th

Contribution Envelopes have arrived! Stop into the office anytime to pick yours up!

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