

Clarence Presbyterian Church

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Growing, Serving, Celebrating



34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 22, 2020

10:00 am – Live Stream Only



**Friends, at this stop on your life's pilgrimage
we bid you welcome
with the hope that here you will find the
love of God, which He offers
to all who seek to serve and follow Him!**



RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE: "Partita on COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME"

Mark A. Radice

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

ANTHEM: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

St. George's Windsor

***Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.***

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, on Sundays we come to this place and you fill us up with your goodness and light and we are renewed. But when we go out into the world, we fall short in so many ways. We confess that we are easily influenced by temptations and we fall prey to all kinds of sins. We are broken people who constantly lose focus on the cross of Christ. Forgive us for taking for granted the gift of the sacrifice of Your Son on our behalf. Thank you for being the Good Shepherd who always brings us back. Please transform our hearts and lives to live every day in the image of Your Son, Jesus. In Whose name we pray, amen. (moment of silent confession)

RESPONSE: "Kyrie eleison"

Guarani Melody/harm. Carlton R. Young

***Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison; Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison; Christe eleison; Christe eleison; Christe eleison.***

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE: "We Are Forgiven"

Hal. H. Hopson

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Lamentations 3:19-24

- ¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

PSALMS 103:1-5

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: I Thessalonians 5:12-22

¹² But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

SERMON: "Brother Steindl-Rast: Cultivate Gratitude"

ANTHEM: "Thanks to God"

Arr. By Don Hustad

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our church family members who are in nursing homes or homebound: Ruth Deal, Wayne Gardiner, Diane Green, Janet LaRusch, Ginger Lindner, Joan MacDonald, Renee Mavis, Marge Salisbury, Jane Schutz, Wendy Taylor and Alan West.

Our church family members in the hospital, receiving treatments and/or recovering at home: Bev Drake, Mary Eisenberger, Dan Faes, Ginny Hill, Norm Kreib, Scott Kronmuller, Kevin McNamara, Debbie Meinzer, Nancy Murto, Sylvia Nascimben, Audrey Owen, Mary Louise Rampolla, Phil & Paull Utter, and Kay West.

LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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.

ANTHEM: "Let All Things Now Living"

Ash Grove

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.***

***By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: "Now Let Us All Thank God"

Carl Piutti

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Gregory Hall

Director of Music Ministry:

Kotoe Shimojo

Sunday School Superintendent:

Sue Zografos

Youth Coordinators:

Melissa Bertrand, Ken & Karen Cummins

Lay Reader:

Steve Dale

Counters:

Dave Gardiner, Don Kaiser, Henry Meinzer

Flowers: In memory of Grace Smith from Linda and Lew Williams.

CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Today

8:30 am Adult Education—Upper Fellowship Hall
10:00 am **Worship**—Sanctuary
10:45 am Church, Chores, Chow—Church Grounds

Monday, November 23rd

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing
9 am—2:00 pm Clarence Food Pantry—Bodine Room
6:00 pm Gordon Highlanders Rehearsal—Upper Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 24th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing

Wednesday, November 25th

9 am—2:30 pm CCNS/UPK—Upper South End Christian Ed Wing
9:00 am Loose Screws Social Club
Newsletter Folding—Upper Fellowship Hall

Thursday, November 26th—Thanksgiving/Office Closed

Friday, November 27th—Office Closed

Sunday, November 29th—1st Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Adult Education—Upper Fellowship Hall
10:00 am **Worship**—Sanctuary

We regret to inform you that we are returning to on-line only worship. The recent increase in local COVID cases has resulted in New York State declaring Clarence as an Orange zone. This means that we must return to on-line only worship. In anticipation of this possibility, the Session provided for this at its November 17 meeting. The Session decided that while we are in a Red or Orange zone, we will only have one service at 10:00 AM. It will be available on-line only. We hope this restriction will last only a short time. Orange also means that in person meetings are limited to no more than 10 people. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Church, Chores, Chow today following 10 am worship. After a quick outdoor cleanup we will have a light snack and fellowship outside.

Angels may be picked up on Sunday mornings after both services up to 11:30 am and on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Angels will be spread out on several tables so we can be socially distanced as we begin this annual project. See *Staying Connected* and the upcoming newsletter for more details on this project or call/text Jim Owen (716-310-5447).

Theology on Tap will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 30 at 6:30 pm. The topic is taken from the December 2020 issue of *First Things* and is titled “The Fury of the Fatherless.” Look for the meeting link in *Staying Connected*.

The Light Which Illumines the World is the Advent devotional we will be following this Advent season. Advent is a time of both celebration and reflection. It is a time of waiting and expectance. This devotional is written by Peter Millar and offered through Iona Books. Rev. Hall’s sermons through Advent will follow this devotional. You may pick up a hard copy beginning next Sunday or download a PDF version link in *Staying Connected*.

On Christmas Eve New York State regulations permitting we will have our traditional three services at 5:30, 8 and 11 pm. We can only accommodate about 90 people at each service. Thus, reservations will be required. There is a link on our website and in *Staying Connected* for reservations. You choose the service you would like to attend, put in the name of your party and the number of attendees. We will then be using this sign up to assign pews to maximize how many people can attend. When you arrive on Christmas Eve, the ushers will direct you to your assigned pew. If you are in a “bubble” with another family that wants to attend the same service, please let us know. We can then put two groups in the same pew. Contact the office if you have any questions: 759-8396 / office@clarencypresby.org.

Pantry needs this week butter/margarine, mouthwash, men’s/women’s deodorant. Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who has returned their estimate of giving card for 2021. If you haven’t had a chance yet, please take a moment to complete your card and return via mail. Thank you!

The 2021 Flower Signup for Sundays is now [online](#). Arrangements cost \$50, but is subject to change. One donor a week is appreciated. A reminder and dedication form will be sent to you the month previous to the date you signed up for. **Please be sure to have all information into the office by the Wednesday of the week you have designated. You may also contact the office to reserve the date** (office@clarencypresby.org ow **759-8396**). Contact Barbara Utter if you have questions: 741-3208.

The office will be closed next Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

