



**First Reformed Church, Schenectady**  
In-person worship requires masks,  
distance, and no singing.

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 8, 2020**

**Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden**  
**Liturgist: Daniel Carlson**  
**Church Musician: Max Caplan**  
**Special Music: Peter Bellino, trumpet**  
**Hymns: Heather Chestnut**

**Prelude** *Sonata for Cornet and Piano* Thorvald Hansen

### **Greeting and Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn** *God Is Here!* 461 vs. 1&4

God is here! As we Your people  
Meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure  
What it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work Your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
All we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without You,  
We adore You! We believe!

**\*Our Need for God (unison)**

**When we close our ears to your teachings,  
and choose not to teach our children of your wonders;  
When we forget your works of steadfast love and mercy,  
and yet see our worship and works as worthy of praise;  
When we grow impatient with waiting for you to show us a sign  
or fix the world's problems,  
and take things into our own hands without you,  
Have mercy, O Lord, and forgive us.**

**\*God's Forgiving Love**

**\*Response of Praise (hummed)**

**Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (Our Song of Hope)**

**We are a people of hope  
waiting for the return of our Lord.  
God has come to us  
through the ancient people of Israel,  
as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth,  
as the Holy Spirit at work in our world.  
Our Lord speaks to us now through the inspired Scriptures.  
Christ is with us day by day.**

**Come, Lord Jesus:  
We are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

## **Children's Message and Sharing Christ's Peace**

**Special Music** *Elegy*, Alexander Arutiunian

**Introduction to the Scripture**

**First Reading** *Amos 5:18-24*

**Second Reading** *Matthew 25:1-13*

**Sermon** "*Timing*"

**Musical Offering** *Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Mvt. II* Vladimir Peskin

**Prayers of the People**

**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.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* 422

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From Your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted,  
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.

### **\*Blessing of Pledges and Benediction**

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#### **Elders**

Joanne Arnold, Senior Elder  
Barbara Mancuso, Senior Elder  
Sally Bestgen  
Carol DeLaMarter  
Karen Gonda  
Laura Lee  
Adam Mason  
Amanda Potter  
Florence Reed  
Kate Rose

#### **Deacons**

Sarah Bachorik  
Bill Brooks  
Caroline Brooks  
Dave Bundy  
Christine Daniels  
Lian Drisgula  
Dave Hjelmar  
Christina Jones  
Sharron McCullough  
Brandon Stabler

#### **Ministers**

Lynn Carman Bodden, Interim Senior Minister  
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister

#### **Other Officers**

Catherine Lewis, Treasurer  
Joanne Bedell, Clerk