

but do not let his rule live in us. We call him “Light, “ but abide in the shadows. We say he is the “Way,” but do not follow him. Do not hold our doubts against us and be patient with our desires for signs of your power. Have mercy upon us, O God; forgive us who confess our sin; restore us who turn again to you, as was promised by your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Kyrie Eleison: **Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

A Call to New Life

A Psalm:

Psalm 133

***The 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 without end. Amen.**

Anthem:

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates
From Messiah

Handel

The Word of God

The Junior Sermon

The Prayer for Illumination: **We come, O God, expecting to hear you speak. Make us receptive, so that even when we don't hear what we expect or want to hear, we know that it is from you. Open our minds and our hearts, so we may be challenged by your Word. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

The First Lesson:

Acts 4:32-35

The Epistle Lesson:

1 John 1:1-2:2

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Lesson:

John 20:19-31

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

“Be Like Thomas”

A Prayer for Blessing upon the Word

The Response of God's People

*A Hymn: "All Things are Thine; No Gift Have We"
The Hymnbook, 313

The Offering

Offertory: Lift High the Cross
Nicholson

The Doxology (#544) and Prayer of Consecration

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

*A Hymn: "Christ for the World We Sing" The Hymnbook, 489

*The Benediction

Benediction Response

*The Postlude: It's Only A Paper Moon Arlen, Rose, Harburg

*Please stand if you are able.

Announcements

Join us during coffee hour for a conversation with Consistory members Tony Pechulis and Sue Lichtig on April 14. This is the first of a series of conversations to be scheduled. In the future, particular topics may be assigned, but this will be an open discussion. So, please grab a cup of coffee and bring

your questions, comments and suggestions!

The Mission and Service Committee is planning our first Brooks BBQ of the 2024 season. It will be Wednesday, April 17th, 3 PM – SOLD OUT. We need volunteers to help the day of the BBQ. There will be a need for inside help: assembling the chicken dinners, bagging dinners, and transporting dinners to the pickup tables. Outside help: ticket sales, ticket counter to keep track of the number of chickens sold, traffic direction, and runners to take assembled dinners to the cars. We will also need volunteers to bake brownies. Please bake at least 3 dozen brownies **without nuts**, cut them into approximately 3 x 3 squares and put them into individual plastic baggies. There will be volunteer sign up sheets for the day of the BBQ and baking brownies in the main hall of the Education Building, starting March 24th. If you can volunteer April 17th, please plan on being there by 2:15pm, as we usually start selling before 3:00pm. If you are unable to make it into church and would like to volunteer in some way, please call me (Kim Cerone) @ 518-339-7504 or email me at purdyka@aol.com. Please leave your name and contact information, and I will get back to you.

Our April Mission of the Month Collection will benefit St. Joseph's Place, a ministry of St. Joseph's Parish in Schenectady. They provide a place of hospitality, refreshment, prayer, and conversation for the Hamilton Hill neighborhood. The drop-in center was founded in 2014 and serves 20 - 30 neighbors daily who stop by to pray, visit, and enjoy a cup of coffee. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Church members Penelope & Phoebe Stafford, led by scout leaders Erin Bagdriwicz and Mandie Stafford will be selling cooking on April 14th and 21st as part of girl scout troop 5062 in the parking lot from 9 am- 1pm on the far end of the Education Building. The girls have picked a local no kill animal rescue to support this year with the profits from their cookie sales.

It is that time of year when NRC will begin our 2024 service at the Salvation Army of Schenectady. Lunch dates have so far been scheduled for **April 9, May 14 and June 11**. This is a commitment from about 9:30am until 1:30pm. We will be serving monthly from April until November, so if you are unable to join us at the above dates, maybe we will catch you at another time! If you are able to help us prepare and serve meals to our neighbors, *please call or text Sue Lichtig at (518)421-1734*. Thank you!

Thank you to those of you who came out to patronize the WFG and M&SC Bake

Sale this past Tuesday. With very low voter turnout ... we have leftovers ... and will be offering some of these items for sale during coffee hour this morning, so you still have an opportunity to satisfy your sweet tooth and also support our committees' projects.

Scripture

Psalm 133:1-3

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we

confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.