



**Saddle River Reformed Church
Worshiping at
Old Stone Church**

**Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024
10am Worship**

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Giordano

Head Usher: Cliff Kammerer

(*Congregation stands as they are able)

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

VOTUM

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: Amen.

Psalm 124:8

OUR HOPE: Heidelberg Catechism Question & Answer #1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q&A 65

Q. It is through faith alone that we share in Christ and all his benefits: where then does that faith come from?

A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts by the preaching of the holy gospel, and confirms it by the use of the holy sacraments.

GREETING

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And with you, also.

*HYMN: 10 “Majesty”

PRAYER OF HUMAN CONDITION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to the calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you have made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), p. 317

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:8, 10-12

READING OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

PSALTER

Pastor: Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

People: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah

Pastor: But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

People: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

Pastor: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

People: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

Pastor: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

All: I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

Psalm 4

*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, Amen.

***HYMN: 686 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**
(v. 1 & 6)

THE WORD OF GOD IN PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, whose mighty power raised Jesus from the dead, breaking the grip of death and dissolving the terror of the grave; scatter the darkness of our minds, free us from all fear, and lead us to the comfort of your promise that one day we, too, shall dwell with Christ in the brightness of your glory. Illumine our hearts that we may hear and receive the good news of the reign of our Savior Jesus Christ. Open your Word to our hearts and our hearts to your Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:35-42

Back of pew Bible page 92

Matthew 28:16-20

Back of pew Bible page 34

MESSAGE: “The Power of Eleven and The Power of One”

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise Him all creatures here below,
praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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.*

***HYMN: 368 “He Lives”** (v. 1 & 3)

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

Today we welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Dr. Stephen Giordano. Dr. Giordano received his Masters of Divinity from NBTS in 1976 and then received his Doctorate of Ministry from NBTS in 2001. He served at Old First Reformed Church in Brooklyn, NY from 1976-1984; Clinton Ave. Reformed Church in Bergenfield, NJ from 1984-2004; Massapequa Reformed Church in Massapequa, NY from 2004-2012 and then as Interim Pastor at All Saints Lutheran Church in Novato, CA from 2017-2018. Finally, he served as an RCA Chaplain for retired ministers and missionaries in DE, MD, and VA from 2019-2023. He lives with his beloved wife Carla, in Harriman, NY along with their daughter, her husband and their two lovely grandchildren.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Friends and family of
David Lancaster**

- **Kirk Gagnon**
- **Una Ratmeyer**
- **John Seibert**
- **The Rev. Mel Van Hattem**

**Our home-bound
members:**

**Joyce McClurg
Laura Parker**

**Brett Ferra; Bill
Conklin; June Conklin;
Victor Zeringo**

*(Requested by Jo
Conklin)*

**Judy Nygern; Andres
Magi; Ron Kraham**

*(Requested by Peter
Freeman)*

Jane Sands; Avalyn

*(Requested by the
Gagnons)*

Amy Rohrbacher

*(Requested by Eileen
Jones)*

**Claudia Kammerer;
Roger; Suzette A; Anna
Hartung; Bertha
Mandel; Denny
Thompson; Chris
Reilly; Terri; Roger
Trespicio; Sydney Sue;
Paul & Barbara
Sherman; Chris
Hernandez; Patti;
Hyuncha; Diane; Dick
Meuer**

*(Requested by the
Kammerers)*

**Tim P; Joe C; Virginia
F; Tom K; Ann S; Dave
C; Rich H; Carol B;
Gary G**

*(Requested by Cathy
Lowden)*

Lorenzo Dameano

*(Requested by Nancy
Peet)*

**Dorothy Crapanzano;
Brian Peters; Cheryl;
Joe Evans; Paul;
Amanda and David**

*(Requested by the
Peters)*

Janet Sandgran

*(Requested by the Sew
'n' Sews)*

Alexa Yannuzzi

*(Requested by the
Strohmeys)*

**Kandra Niagra; Marcy
Robin; Russell**

**Maitland; Lynn
Friedman; Stephanie
Schwartz; Arlene Teck;
Terry Ross; Loris
Marfilius; Catherine
Galione**

*(Requested by Rozanne
Sullivan)*

Vicki Lunghofer

*(Requested by Christine
Van Wetering)*

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT FOR

- RCA missionaries
- The Leadership of the Reformed Church in America: General Synod, Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics, the Classis of the Greater Palisades, and our Consistory
- Seminary students at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and the Western Theological Seminary
- All victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, drought, and man-made disasters including Texas wildfires, California floods, Chile wildfires, southeast tornadoes, and Tennessee tornadoes
- Leaders of government and international aid organizations
- Those serving our country, veterans, and all peoples affected by war and terrorist attacks including the humanitarian crisis in Israel and Gaza
- The victims of mass shootings and their families
- Those working to dismantle racism and break barriers for people living with disabilities
- The poor, oppressed, sick, lonely, homeless, unemployed, exiles and refugees, infirm and the dying, prisoners, caregivers, and those struggling with addiction and mental illness and their families
- The families who have served our congregation through their ministry: Marlyn Minnick, Ellen Springsteen, and Bob & Arlene Fretz

- Our congregation's search committee, that they may be led to choose the best candidate to lead our church in the future
- All those who have lost loved ones, including the friends and family of David Lancaster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY Bible Study/Lecture: Meets every Wednesday at 11am in the Lounge followed by the "Lunch Bunch" from 12:15-1pm. God chooses the most unlikely people to serve Him... fishermen, tax collectors, even a prostitute like Rahab. Her story is found in Joshua chapter 2. In our Bible study we learned of her courage, her resourcefulness, and her loyalty to her family. Our study leader, James Jones, expanded on her story by describing the protective wall of stone that surrounded the city of Jericho. It was large enough to house whole families within it. And we also learned about the flax that Rahab used to safely hide God's Israeli spies. Come and visit this group of 10 or 12 men and women who explore the Bible with hearts open to spiritual learning. We know it takes courage to walk in to a new group of people, but you can be sure that this group is open, smiling, and welcoming. †

The Deacons will be collecting funds during April for The Salvation Army New Jersey Division. The Salvation Army helps vulnerable individuals and families across New Jersey access essential programs and services—breaking the cycle of poverty and despair, and providing hope for a better future. Please make checks payable to “Saddle River Reformed Church” and designate as “Mission of the Month.”

Women’s Bible Study Please consider joining us for a simple Bible Study at the Ramapo Reformed Church. Pastor Mary will lead the group through various scripture readings in the style of Lectio Divina. No preparation is necessary! The next session will be **Tuesday, April 16 at 1pm. We will meet in the Coffee Room of the church building (100 Island Rd).** We will meet every other Tuesday from September through June.

The **Sew ’n’ Sews** next meeting will be **Friday, April 19 at 12 noon at Just Janice, 23 Sheridan Ave, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.** This group is open to everyone. The group provides each other with lots of laughs, ideas, and fellowship.

Time for Fellowship!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for **Sunday Iced Tea Socials.** They are weekly, immediately following the service. This provides us with a chance to chat and catch up with our church family while enjoying a treat or two (or three!).

Food Donations

The **Center for Food Action in Mahwah at 90 Ridge Road is open M-F from 10am-2pm** to accept donations. Their most needed items are Supermarket Gift Cards, Canned Hearty Soups, Canned Vegetables & Fruits, Diapers Sizes 4, 5, 6, Pasta, White & Brown Rice, Dried Beans, Baby Formula, Bar or Bottle Soap, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tomato Sauce, Canned Meat & Fish, Canned Pastas, Stews, & Chilis, Canned Tomatoes, and Low Sugar Cereal.

~ NOTES ~

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The Saddle River Reformed Church worshipping at the Old Stone Church in Upper Saddle River is a member of the Reformed Church in America, serving the New York and New Jersey area since 1628. The Congregation was formed in 1784.

The Reformed Church is part of the Presbyterian/Reformed Christian tradition. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper.

The congregation is an inclusive community that believes that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and the Bible (Hebrew and Christian) reveals those things needed by Christians for spiritual development and living. We believe that the people of the church are to follow the way of love and action given to us by Jesus.

We believe we are at our best when we serve our community.

Saddle River Reformed Church worshipping at Old Stone Church

500 East Saddle River Road
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
201-327-5242
oldstonechurchonline.org
srrcoffice@verizon.net

Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church
Instagram: oldstonechurchnj

Saddle River Reformed Church Consistory

Elders

Peter Freeman, VP
Cathy Lowden, Treasurer
Nancy Peet, Clerk

Deacons

Cliff Kammerer
Suzanne Peters
John Seibert

Staff

Rozanne Sullivan
Director of Music & Organist

Stephanie Doyle
Office Manager
Tu-F 10am-2pm

Ken Conklin
Cemetery Superintendent Emeritus
In Memoriam

