

Our Thanks!

Flowers

Wilma Gilbert,
In Memory of Loved Ones

Next Week

Open Date

We wish to thank all those who have given of their time and talents during this time of turmoil: First Responders, Police, Doctors, Nurses, Food Pantry workers, Truck drivers, Post Office employees, Bankers, Fast Food workers, Grocery Workers and any others who have kept the communities safe and functioning.

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THE REFORMED CHURCH OF
SHAWANGUNK

Sola Fide-Sola Scriptura

Serving Our Community Since 1736

Welcome
To Our
Church



April 25, 2021 - 9:30 A. M.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

We Approach God

Prelude: Prelude on "Converse"

Welcome:

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Community: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

—based on Luke 24:34 *The Worship Sourcebook*

Call to Worship: *(Let us pray together)*

"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,³he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right path for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23 New International Version (NIV)

Prayer of Confession: *(Let us pray together)*

O God of shalom, we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies, but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *The Worship Sourcebook*

Assurance of Pardon

Law of God

Gloria Patri *(Recited --- Please stand as you are able)*

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.

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Lesson: John 10:11-18

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord

Community: Thanks be to God

Prayer for the Blessing of the Word

Sermon: "Sheep" - Pastor Howard Dalton

We Respond To God

Anthem: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" (see insert)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church*,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Spring Praise"

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore you God of glory, Lord of Love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness.

Drive the doubt of dark away.

Giver of eternal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Your joy-filled world surrounds You,

Heav'n and earth reflect Your rays.

Stars and angels sing around You,

center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

chanting bird, and flowing fountains

call us to sing joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, every blessed.

Joy for living, ever springing from great depths of happiness.

You, our father, Christ our brother, all who live in love now shine.

Teach us how to love each other.

Let us feel your joy divine.

INTERLUDE

Mortals join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began.

Father love is reigning o'er us.

Brother love binds man to man.

Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife!

Joyful music leads us onward,
with triumphant songs for life.



Presbyterian minister, Henry van Dyke, wrote the words to “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” while staying at Williams College president Harry Augustus Garfield’s home in the Berkshire Mountains and serving as guest preacher at the college. The source of his inspiration came while gazing upon the scenery in the surrounding Massachusetts hills.

Van Dyke wanted the words to be sung to Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Hymn of Joy” from the Ninth Symphony. He wrote this about the hymn:

“These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time [1907] – hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope.”

Van Dyke’s words are most appropriate especially for 2021! I’m sure you can all relate!

Van Dyke was not only a distinguished Presbyterian minister but a Navy Chaplain in WWI, an ambassador to both Holland and Luxembourg under President Woodrow Wilson, and as a professor of literature at Princeton University. For his many devotional writings, he earned High honors, yet it was this hymn that memorializes him.

I have changed a few words to correspond with the vernacular of today, but the meaning is wholly in keeping with van Dyke’s original text.

Since the tune is well known, I have tried to create within the piano part sounds that enhance the meaning of van Dyke’s words.

Ann Smiley