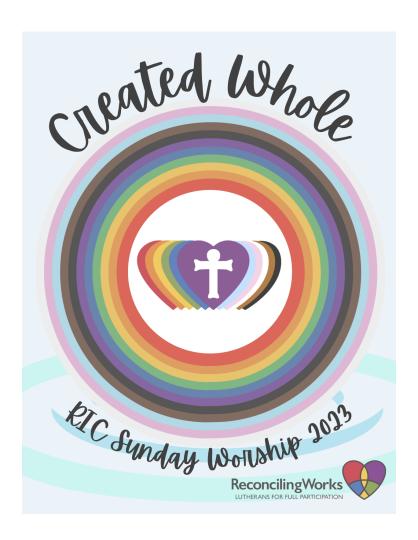
Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



January 29, 2023

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ, and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher if they would like a follow-up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through online bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward. We offer either wine or juice and gluten-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate this request.

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Reconciling In Christ Sunday 2023 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Sunlight in My Soul

Winfield S. Weeden arr. Michael Cox

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

On RIC Sunday, Abiding Peace joins with congregations across the country to celebrate the gospel's commitment to the inclusion and celebration of all of God's Children, in the diversity of our genders, sexualities, races, cultures, and abilities. This year's theme centers on the truth that we are all **Created Whole**. Through this service of worship, we are invited to thank God for the many different ways that our creation in the image of God can be whole and blessed. We are called to live in the love and peace that Christ promises us, and that forms us into a community of welcome.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \blacksquare one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

- P God of all mercy and consolation,
- C come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- *P* Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

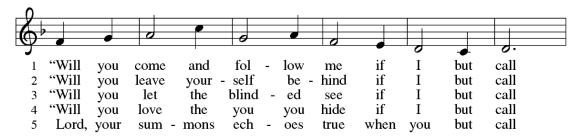
Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me **ELW** 798





Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. Loving Creator,
- C you knit us together and created our innermost beings. You created us loved, worthy, and unique. You created us beautifully diverse in our sexuality, gender identity, race, ethnicity, neurology, and physical ability. Help us to find our wholeness in you and live into our divinely inspired purpose. Guide us to unfold your story of love, through the example and grace of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

The prophet describes a challenge from God directed to God's people, asking how God's consistent saving actions could have wearied them. He then switches his voice to the people, contemplating how they can express remorse and devotion. But what God wants is for the people to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

A A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

The Psalm will be sung responsively, by verse.

Psalm 139: 1-10, 13-15, 23



- Lord, you have | searched me out; O Lord, | you have known me.
- 2 You know my sitting down and my | rising up; you discern my thoughts | from afar.
- 3 You trace my journeys | and my resting places and are acquainted with | all my ways.
- 4 Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it | altogether.
 - 5 You encompass me, behind | and before,

- and lay your | hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me; it is so high that I can- | not attain to it.
- 7 Where can I go then | from your Spirit? Where can I flee | from your presence?
- 8 If I climb up to heaven, | you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you | are there also.
- 9 If I take the wings | of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts | of the sea,
- even there your | hand will lead me and your right hand | hold me fast.
- For you yourself created my | inmost parts; you knit me together in my | mother's womb.
- I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made; your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.
- My body was not hid- | den from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.
- 23 Search me out, O God, and | know my heart; try me and know my | restless thoughts.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

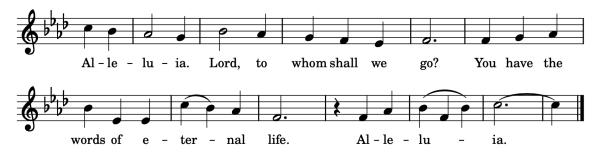
Paul is writing to a community prone to competition and conflict. He calls them to set-aside comparisons that drive them apart and to instead celebrate the diversity of their gifts that all come from the same Spirit.

A A reading from 1^{st} Corinthians.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL John 14:23-29

In his goodbye teaching to his disciples, Jesus clarifies how it is that they can continue to follow him, even after he has departed: by following the guidance of the Spirit whom he will send, who will bring them a new kind of peace.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus answered his disciples, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these

things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be

troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told

you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe."

- *P* The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

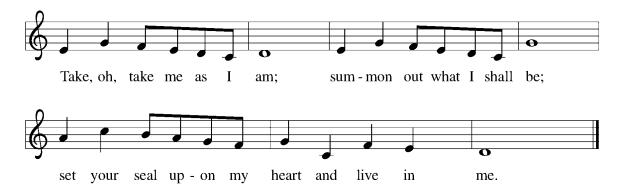
CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows. All stand and sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am ELW 814



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A Welcoming God, we pray for LGBTQ+ saints who have gone before us in the fight for justice, freedom, and peace. Receive in your love those who have boldly stood as themselves, showing the substance you created even when the world told them to hide. Merciful God,

C receive our saints in peace.

A God of Wisdom, we pray for our pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders, that they may lead us to be a loving and welcoming community in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for ReconcilingWorks and all of our Reconciling in Christ partners. We pray that the whole church may someday be a place of joyful celebration for all of our LGBTQ+ siblings. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A Transforming God, we pray for the dismantling of systems rooted in oppression and discrimination. Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, aromantic, disabled, neurodiverse, black, brown, indigenous, migrant, incarcerated, and excluded people matter to you, and thus matter to all of us. Teach us how to manifest their value in both word and deed, and to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A Creator God, we pray for the sustainability of our Earthly home. Guide us to care for creation and to be mindful of the impact of waste and carbon emissions on poor and marginalized communities. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A God of Justice, we pray for our siblings all around the world. We pray that governments enact laws that protect and defend the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that your will be done on earth as in heaven, and that those with power work to protect all of your children. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A Healing God, we pray for those who have chaos swirling within them. We pray for those who have been told they are "less than," "wrong," or who have been rejected for who they are. We pray that all of us find true peace and the created wholeness of ourselves in you. We pray for those who are victims of violence due to homophobia, transphobia, racism, or ableism. We pray for your mercy, love, and healing to care for them. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A God of Comfort, we pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including: Emily, Bill, Joshua, Dawn, Jon, Cheryl, Judy, Jon & Maria, Sandy, Karen, Elfriede & Dick. (Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A Guiding God, we pray that our faith community and its ministries will be empowered to uplift and care for all of your diverse created beings. Spur us to work towards love, justice, and peace in our own families and communities. Merciful God,

C send wholeness to our church.

A Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom.

C Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P May the peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

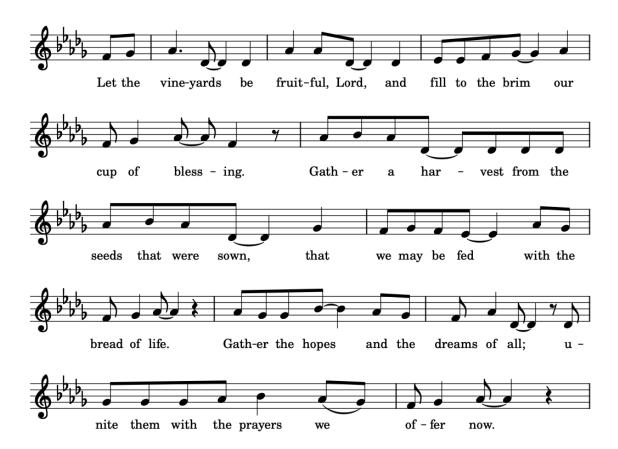
Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God. In anticipation of the coming year of ministry, we also offer our pledges for the work of the church in 2023.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Draw the Circle Wide

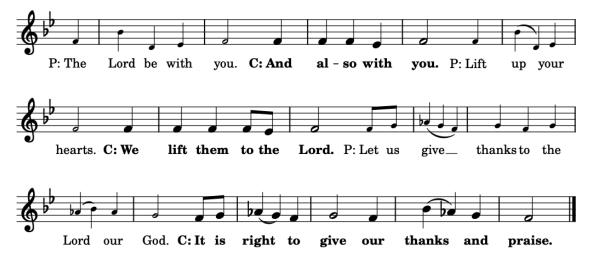
Mark A. Miller



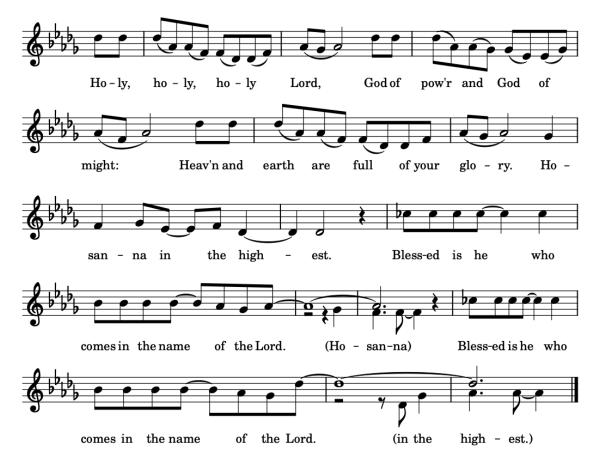


- A Let us pray. God of all creation,
- C you have given us life, love, compassion and hope. We offer the gifts of our very beings to your holy calling. Strengthen us through these gifts to be the arms of mercy and justice for the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for you sent your child to be the light and life for the world, through him you showed us how to love and be loved, how to enact justice and pray for peace. And so, with the glorious company of the saints, with earth and sea and stars, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy, just, and merciful God, in the intersection of the waters above and the waters below, you created life out of the void.

C We thank you for the gift of creation.

P Through Miriam and Moses, you led your people from oppression into freedom.

C We thank you for the gift of liberation.

P You sent the prophets to call your people into the practices of love, and into trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness.

C We thank you for the gift of love.

P In the intersection of the divine and human, you made us whole through Jesus Christ.

C We thank you for the gift of Christ.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

With this holy sustenance we are made new creatures in the covenant of your son, Jesus Christ. Together we remember his life, death, and resurrection in this meal and await a new and unending life in you.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send your Spirit to this place, to this meal, and to your church. May your life-giving wisdom renew and nourish us in your holy promises, so that we may join in the work of justice, wholeness, and freedom.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With the birds of the air and fish in the sea, with the flora and fauna, with saints of all time and space, we praise you always, O God, blessed Trinity, to the very end of the age.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

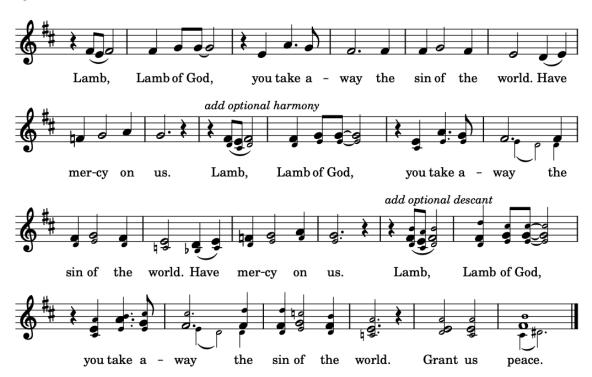
- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

P Come and taste the joy of God!

C We come to be nourished by God's joy!

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.







Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: MERCY, WE ABIDE, Bret Hesla Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Stand, if you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Holy One,

C we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P May the God of creation bless you and claim you. May the Savior \pm give you peace and wholeness. And may Spirit guide you and lead you to mercy and justice.

C Amen.

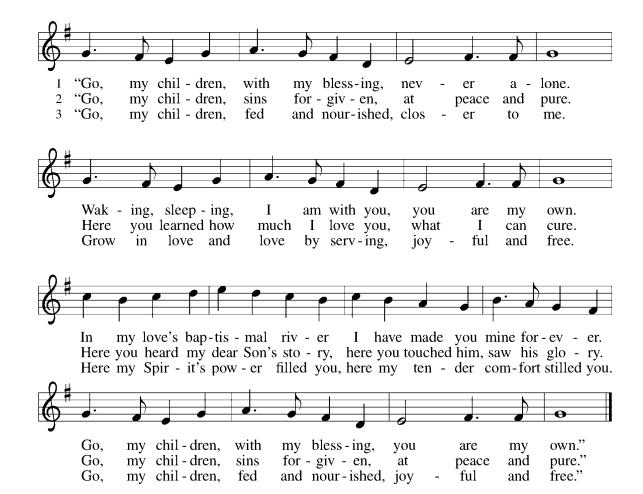
Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing ELW 543

All stand, as able, and sing.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

March Henry Purcell



Next Week's Lessons:	Serving in Worship		
Isaiah 58:1-12		Today, Sun. Jan. 29	Next Week, Sun. Feb. 5
Psalm 112:1-10	Altar Guild	Mary Kasakove	Sibylle Schroeder
1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Counter	Sandy Carlson	Ursula Schroeder
Matthew 5:13-20	Assistant Minister	Sue Stirrat	Mary Kasakove
	Communion Assist.	Doug Laird	George Pawlo
	Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Mary Kasakove	Cindy Pawlo
	Soloist	Aaron Hyndman	TBD

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena:

Wednesday, Feb 1: 2:00-5:00 pm; Sunday, Feb. 5: 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Livestream Assistant

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Jim Tangen, Elisabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Pat Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Linda Kahler, Mark Dennis, Mike Urodzinski, John Corneilson, Tim O'Connor, Karen and Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, and Marderos Nersesian.

Sheeba David

Ray Mueller

Those in mourning: the Price family (mother of Carol Biunno), the Mueller Family, the family of Chris VanBeveran (aunt of Pastor Serena), the family of Joey Scollins (nephew of Sandy Carlson), the family of Kenneth Johanson (uncle of Lynn Peterson) Please note: names of those in mourning will be listed for 6 months but please keep them always in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ Church office hours: Pastor Serena generally holds office hours on Wednesdays and Sundays. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

- ~ Food Pantry Needs for December: Peanut Butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot dogs, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, Mac-and-cheese, crackers, cake mixes, Gluten Free Pasta.
- ~ Altar Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Kev Schneider with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ Interested in hosting a coffee hour? Not hard. Just bring some store-bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

Art: Reconciling Works Cover Art

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, January 29:

- RIC Sunday Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- RIC Bible Study, 11:15 am

Monday, January 30

• NO Children's Church (Pastor at continuing ed)

Tuesday, January 31

Wednesday, February 1

- Worship & Music Committee, 2:00 pm, via Zoom
- Bible Study Biblical Themes in Encanto, 7:30 pm

Thursday, February 2

Choir Rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Friday, February 3

Saturday, February 4

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, Feb 5:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Confirmation Class, 11:30-1:30

Monday, Feb 6:

• Children's Church, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

Tuesday, Feb 7:

Wednesday, Feb 8:

• Bible Study - Biblical Themes in Encanto, 7:30 pm

Thursday, Feb 9:

• Choir Rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Friday, Feb 10:

Saturday, Feb 11:

Upcoming Events

APLC Council meeting, February 12, after worship.

Wednesday, February 22 - Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service, hosted by United Presbyterian Church, Flanders.

Sunday, March 5, 3:00 pm - Mission District Meeting, one (or more) lay leader needed.

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below: https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live