

**Welcome to Stanton Reformed Church!**  
**We're so glad you've joined us for worship today!**

If you're visiting, we would like to extend a special welcome to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher - they're the folks who gave you this bulletin!

**Restrooms** - From the back of the sanctuary, head left, pass the coat closet and go through the double doors, they're straight ahead of you.

**Nursery** - We provide nursery care and our loving adults would enjoy meeting your littlest ones. To get to the nursery, head left from the back of the sanctuary, pass the coat closet and it is on your right. Feel free to stay with your little one if you'd like. But we also want you to enjoy worship so the nursery staff is happy to take your cell phone and can text you with updates. We want you to feel comfortable!

**Children** - About 15 minutes into the worship service, children are invited forward for a special message just for them. You're welcome to join your child up front if you prefer.

**Sunday School** - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, and high school students meet the 3rd Sunday of each month. There are loving adults in the foyer directing children to the right class. If you have questions, again don't hesitate to ask an usher. You can pick up your child after worship in their classroom.

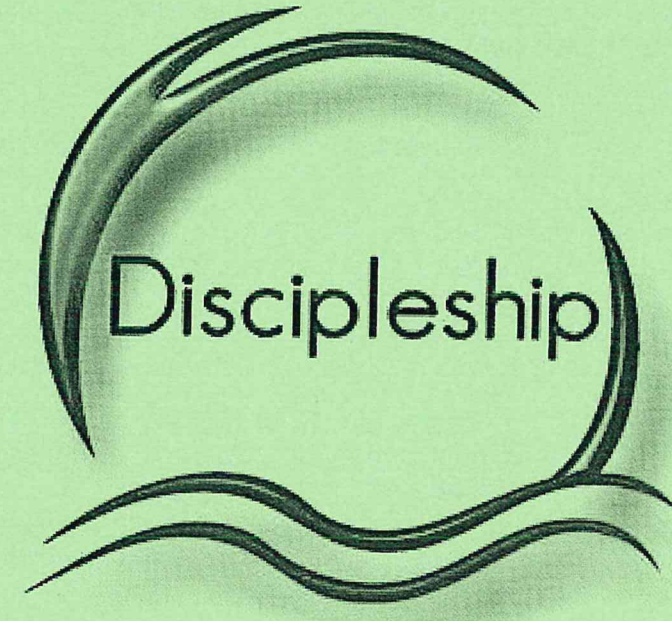
**Fellowship Time After Worship** - After worship, we gather as a community for coffee, tea and snacks. If you're able, please join us.

**Want to know more?** There are cards in the back of the pews for you to provide your name and contact information if you would like more information about our community of faith. Again, welcome! We're so glad you're here!

---

Stanton Reformed Church  
1 Stanton Mountain Road, PO Box 114, Stanton, NJ 08885  
stantonchurch@gmail.com      908-236-2381

Rev. Beth Scibienski, Interim Pastor  
Sara Haviland, Consistory Vice President  
Carole Falar, Office Administrator  
Beryl Gandolfo, Treasurer  
Donna Morris, Financial Secretary  
Megan Petrushun, Music Director  
Philip Stevenson, Organist



***Stanton Reformed Church***  
***Founded 1833***

***A Congregation of the***  
***Reformed Church in America***

***Sunday, February 2, 2020***

***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***



## We Assemble in God's Name

\* invites you to stand with us, in body or in spirit, as you are able.

**Bold** indicates parts read by the congregation.

### Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *He Leadeth Me* Bradbury, arr. Sorenson

### Preparation for Worship

*When you look back on your life, what has God done for you? What blessings do you live in this season of your life? As we recollect what God has done on our behalf and then consider the teachings of what it means to be a disciple of Christ, we can reimagine what the world ought to look like, how the world ought to operate, and how we, as followers of Christ, can be a blessing to those we encounter in our lives.*

Choral Introit *Will You Come and Follow Me* The Iona Community  
*Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?*

### Call to Worship

Who may dwell in the house of God?

**Those who do what is right and who speak truth from their hearts.**

What does God require of us?

**To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk faithfully with God.**

What we see as wisdom in our world is not always God's wisdom.

**And what God sees as wisdom is often considered foolish in our world.**

What we see as poor or weak, God sees as Beloved.

**Come all of God's Beloved, let us worship God together.**

\*Hymn of Praise #108 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* MADRID

### Call to Confession

Let us be bold enough to admit our foolishness before God and one another. Let us speak the truth of our brokenness and our dependence upon God's love. For it is true - God longs to heal us and our world.

### Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you have said that the poor in spirit are blessed, yet we crave positions of power and envy those who appear self-sufficient.

**You have said that those who mourn are blessed, yet we would rather numb ourselves to the grief of this world.**

**Consistory Members** - *Our Church is governed by a board of Elders and Deacons, together they make up our "Consistory." The Consistory oversees the worship and work of the church. If you have questions or comments, one of these folks will be happy to serve you.*

Diane Clapp, *Personnel and Finance & Stewardship Committees*

Scott Clarke, *Learning Center and Personnel committee*

Michele D'Amico, *All Are Welcome committee*

Sara Haviland Jackson, *VP of Consistory and Communications Committee*

Lauren Huelsebusch, *Worship committee*

Melody Landon Simerson, *Congregational Nurture Committee*

JP Magron, *member at large*

Erik Petrushen, *Nominating Committee*

Ed Scheuermann, *Interim Liaison Buildings and Grounds*

Tanya Tuccillo, *Mission Committee*

Bud Tunison, *Finance & Stewardship Committee*

Michele White, *Christian Education Committee*



**Prayers and Birthdays** - If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Pastor Beth, or Carole at the church office. If you would like to send cards or notes to anyone on our prayer list, please contact the church office for an address.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

- Jay Kitchener is having a hard time dealing with complications of leukemia.
- JP Magron is grateful for visits from his families and requested prayers for comfort for his godmother who recently lost her husband.
- Donna Harding - prayers for friend Mike who passed away this past week.
- Beryl Gandolfo - prayers for friend Susie who is in her third year of treatment for non-hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Carol Hrubesh - prayers for friend Johnny who is in the hospital after a brain bleed.
- Mary Schwenkler - prayers for nephew Morgan who struggles with mental illness.
- Adele Wittenberg - prayers for her friend Lew whose sister passed away recently.
- Prayers for Alfred Dentale - may he know he is loved.
- Megan Petrushun's aunt, Luci Houx, is in the hospital with an infection.
- Melody Landon's friend, Rob Kalesse, passed away last week with his loving wife beside him. Please keep his wife, Cristina, and his family in your prayers.
- Kathleen Zemlachenko's nephew is battling leukemia.
- Nick Zemlachenko's nephew is struggling with addiction.
- Michele D'Amico's mother continues to have difficulties with dialysis.
- Michele White shared that there is a Hunterdon Central freshman on life support after a suicide attempt. Prayers for him, his family, and friends. And for all youth, and for wisdom to help us to care for them.
- Joe Herb's sister was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Charlie Scammell requested prayers for Sue Scammell Carpenter, who is fighting lymphoma.

**Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:**

- Joyful for a sunny day and just to be alive.
- Britt's electrical issue has been resolved.
- The White triplets (Austin, Matthew, and Tyler) turned 21.
- Beth enjoyed bubble tea with her grandchildren.
- Melody Landon's granddaughter, Madison, turned 2.

**Birthday Blessings:**

Feb 8 - Paul Brembt                      Feb 8 - Declan LeBaron                      Feb 11 - Paul Sauerland

---

You have said the meek are blessed, yet we allow money to become our idol and wish for more than we need.

**You have said that those who hunger and thirst are blessed, yet we would rather turn the channel, cross to the other side of the street, or look away from the needs of others.**

You have said that the merciful are blessed, yet we harbor anger and are negligent in giving mercy to others.

**You have said that the pure in heart are blessed, yet our actions and motives most often are for our own benefit rather than the good of others.**

You have said that the peacemakers are blessed, yet we would rather incite division and choose sides.

**You have said that the persecuted are blessed, yet we find comfort in our privilege.**

*Silence*

O God of creation,  
**grant us eyes to see,  
ears to hear,  
and hearts to truly know  
the ones you called blessed.  
Change us from the inside out  
that we may work to reimagine your Kingdom. Amen.**

*Hold silence for personal prayer*

*or follow your breath as a way of being present*

Kyrie Eleison

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon and Summary of the Law

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. Nothing.

**God's river of love flows deep and wide,  
and is always and forever washing us clean.**

Therefore, let us be kind and compassionate to one another.

**Let us forgive each other, just as God has forgiven us.**

Let us follow God's example.

**As God's beloved, let us walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us.**

May we know the love and peace of Christ this day. Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**



\*Gloria Patri (#807)

**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.**

Choral Anthem *Live-a-Humble.* Peter Bagley  
*Live a humble, Lord, live a humble, Lord, humble yourselves.  
Oh well, the bell done rung! Live a humble, Lord, live a humble, humble yourselves.  
Bell done rung! Bell done rung! Praise King Jesus, Praise the Lord.  
Glory and Honor, Glory and Honor! And we will praise the Lord!  
Live a humble, Lord, live a humble, Lord, humble yourselves  
Some go to church to put on pretent, until the day of grace is spent.  
The ol' man Adam had never been out;  
when the sermon commence, he jump up and shout.  
I'm singing "Glory and Honor!" I'm singing "Glory and Honor!"  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! "Glory and Honor!" I'm shouting.  
Humble, Lord, live a humble, Lord, humble yourselves.  
Bell done rung! Bell done rung!  
Some people say they's goin' above the sky; I know very well they's tellin' a lie.  
If my Lord, Christ Jesus, had set them free,  
they would always let their neighbor's bus'ness be.  
I'm singing, "Glory and Honor, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!"  
I've never been to heav'n, but I've been told  
that the streets up there are paved with gold.  
I'll be list'nin' all day long to the glorious sounds of all the angel songs.*

**Proclamation of the Word**

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Micah 6:1-8  
Page 816, regular print  
Page 1060, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Page 156, regular print  
Page 202, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Is this a fool's errand?*

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Progressive Dinner - Saturday, February 8th - RSVP Due Today**

It's time for our annual progressive dinner! This dinner is open to all adults in the community, and is a great way to connect with friends old and new (and friends that you haven't met yet!). Each course is at a different location and with a different set of diners - it's like three dinner parties in one! The evening starts with appetizers at the church at 6:00 PM, travels for soup and salad at 7:00, and shuffles again for dinner and dessert at 8:30. Please **RSVP TODAY** at this link:

**<https://tinyurl.com/SRC-Progressive-Dinner>**

Or, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can email [anna-barton@hotmail.com](mailto:anna-barton@hotmail.com) or text 908-797-8438. Please indicate how many adults are in your party and if you are willing to host or bring an appetizer/dessert. This dinner is open to all adults in the community, so feel free to bring your friends!

---

**February Mission of the Month - Meals on Wheels, Hunterdon County**

The Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon mission is to assist the homebound elderly and/or disabled residents of Hunterdon County, NJ maintain their independence by enhancing their nutritional health thereby avoiding unwanted institutionalization. Volunteer drivers deliver individually packaged nutritionally balanced meals to the participants' homes along specified routes around the noon hour Mondays through Fridays. In addition to bringing meals to the homebound, the drivers provide an assurance check each day.

---



**THANK YOU FOR SERVING!**

- Leading us in worship today:
  - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
  - Liturgist: Donna Morris
  - Organist: Philip Stevenson
  - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
- Thank you to Jean Feike and Barbara Tannahill for ushering today.
- Thank you to Kathleen and Nick Zelachenko for hosting Fellowship today.
- The flowers on our altar are given in the glory of God by Angel Longo.

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS**

<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>	Feb 9	<b>Please sign up!</b>
	Feb 16	<b>Please sign up!</b>
<b><u>Fellowship Hour</u></b>	Feb 9	Camille Kille
	Feb 16	Borea-Cerciello Family
<b><u>Flowers</u></b>	Feb 9	Camille Kille
	Feb 16	Borea-Cerciello Family
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Feb 9	Kellee & Charlie Scammell
	Feb 16	<b>Please sign up!</b>

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Monday, Feb 3	Missions Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
	All Are Welcome Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wednesday, Feb 5	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	Bible Reading Group	7:00 PM
Friday, Feb 7	SLC Kids' Night	6:00 PM
Saturday, Feb 8	Progressive Dinner	6:00 PM
Sunday, Feb 9	Middle School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Second Cup with Pastor Beth	11:30 AM

**Our Response to God's Word and Spirit**

\*Hymn of Response #571    *What Does the Lord Require?*    SHARPTHORNE  
(verses 1, 3 & 5)

\*Affirmation of Faith<sup>1</sup>

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the Church by God's Word and God's Spirit.  
**God has done this since the beginning of the world and will continue to do so to the end.**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian Church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the Church, as the community of believers, who have been reconciled with God and with one another.**

Therefore, we believe that unity is a gift to the Church of Jesus Christ.  
**Therefore we believe that unity is an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ.**

Celebration of the Lord's Table

The Invitation

We are hungry. We are hungry for justice. We are hungry for love.  
**We are hungry for acceptance. We are hungry for peace. We are hungry for food.**

We are hungry for God.

**Here at this table, we encounter the risen Christ who feeds us. With physical food and also with spiritual food - the kind that sustains us and does not run out.**

So, come to this table and be fed by Christ.

Heap your plates high with God's abundant grace and love.

Dine on justice, and peace, and love. Be fed by God.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

In the beginning, God, you created everything. You gave us an abundance of food and called it good. But we ate what was not good and broke the covenant you made.

**And we broke it again, and again, and again.**

<sup>1</sup> From the "Song of Hope," A Confession of the Reformed Church of America.



You placed rainbows in the sky, sent prophets to remind and warn us when we strayed, led us through the wilderness, and fed us manna when we were hungry.

**And we ignored you. We complained about what you gave us, and we wandered away from you.**

So, you began again. You sent your son to guide us home to you; mend the broken relationship; and offer forgiveness and reconciliation.

**In Jesus' life, and in his ministry, he called us to feed those who were hungry.**

Hungry for peace. For justice. For acceptance. For love. Those who hungered for food and stability, and those who are hungry for you.

You call us to feed those in need and remember that how we treat "the least of these" is how we treat Christ.

**It's hard to be mindful of those in need.**

Hard to see those at our door who are hungry for what you offer that is not food. And yet you keep calling us to do it.

**So feed us Lord, feed us so that we can feed the world with your peace, justice, acceptance, welcome, love, and, yes, actual food.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup so that we may be fed by you to go out and do what you call us to.

**May this meal give us courage, energy, acceptance, and love to serve others who hunger.**

At this table, may we be nourished so that we may go out into the world and continue the work you called us to – to love, serve, and care in the name of your son. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Prayer after the Meal with the Prayers of the People

What joys and concerns would we like to add to our list of prayers?

*Let's pause in silence for those prayers that have not been mentioned but remain in our hearts and on our minds.*

We seal these prayers with the prayer Jesus taught us,

**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.**

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

In this time of giving, we answer God's invitation to follow.

**Some of us come with pockets full of money and with the will to share our treasure;**

**Some come with pockets empty but with the will to share our lives in service.**

**However we come today, let us give with grateful hearts.**

The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

Offertory

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Kirkpatrick, arr. Mier

\*Doxology (#809 in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

God, we offer all we are, all we have, and all that we can be to you.

**Transform these gifts into instruments of your peace and justice;**

**Craft us into vessels of your hope and love. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Sending #486 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

WELLESLEY

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction *Make Room within My Heart, O God*

KINGSFOLD

*Make room within my heart, O God, that you may form in me  
the image you have shown in Christ, my very life to be.*

*Inspire my thought, O lofty One, to reach the highest plane,  
that I may know the mind of Christ, and him as greatest gain.*

Postlude

*Allegro in G Major*

Melody Bober