

RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



(JOHN ELDRIDGE)

**A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FIRST SERVICE OF WORSHIP IN THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 11, 1796**

**A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
4:00 PM**

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONGREGATION

**GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUR REFUGE
FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER.**

**BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE BROUGHT FORTH
OR THE LAND AND THE SEA WERE BORN,
FROM AGE TO AGE YOU ARE GOD.**

**MAY THE GRACIOUSNESS OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON US,
AND PROSPER THE WORK OF OUR HANDS.**

HYMN: "O THOU WHOSE LOVE OUR LIVES HATH CROWNED"

CONGREGATION

**"A HISTORY OF THE RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH"
EXCERPTS**

**EARLIEST DAYS
RECENT HISTORY**

*DARDIS MCNAMEE
JAMES BROOKENS*

DEDICATION OF THE HISTORY

REV. ALEXANDRA LUSAK

GREETINGS AND REMEMBRANCES FROM FORMER MODERATORS

**SCRIPTURE READING
THOUGHTS:**

**SECOND CHRONICLES 6: 18–21
*REV. ROBERT LAMAR & REV. JAMES MILLER***

HYMN #321 "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION", VERSES 1 & 2

**SCRIPTURE READING
THOUGHTS:**

**MATTHEW 22: 34–40
*REV. DONNA ELIA & REV. JOSEPH SHOOK***

HYMN #307 "GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY", VERSES 1 & 4

**SCRIPTURE READING (PHILIPPIANS 1: 3–6)
AND PRAYER**

REV. LUSAK

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE VILLAGE VOICES

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

CONGREGATION

HYMN #687 "O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

CONGREGATION

**WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS OF
RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

REV. LUSAK

HYMN #305 "COME SING, O CHURCH, IN JOY"

CONGREGATION

CHARGE AND BLESSING

REV. LUSAK

O THOU WHOSE LOVE OUR LIVES HATH CROWNED

A HYMN WRITTEN TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
AND SUNG DURING A SERVICE IN THIS CHURCH ON JULY 2, 1876

O THOU WHOSE LOVE OUR LIVES HATH CROWNED
IN WHOM ARE ALL OUR WAYS
WE LIFT OUR EARNEST HEARTS TO THEE
IN HYMNS OF JOY AND PRAISE.

WE THANK THEE FOR THE TENDER CARE
THAT KEPT OUR (FORBEARS) DEAR;
THAT GATHERED THROUGH THE VARIED YEARS,
THY FLOCK THAT WORSHIPPED HERE.

O MAY OUR LIVES, FOR LOYALTY
UNTO THY CHURCH AND THEE,
BE LIKE TO THEIRS, MOST GRAND AND FIRM,
WHEN IN ADVERSITY.

OUR (FORBEARS') GOD – AND OURS – WE LOVE
TO PRAISE THY HOLY NAME,
IN PSALMS THEIR LIPS SO OFTEN SUNG,
OUR FAITH AND THEIRS THE SAME.

THEIR FAITH IS LOST IN GLORIOUS SIGHT;
GRANT US TO JOIN ABOVE
THE BEST COMMUNION OF THY SAINTS,
AND SHARE THEIR HEAVEN OF LOVE.

SET TO HYMN TUNE: AMAZING GRACE (#649 IN HYMNAL)

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL AND FOR THIS CONGREGATION OF YOUR PEOPLE,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR THIS PLACE IN WHICH WE GATHER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER, WITNESS AND
SERVICE,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR YOUR PRESENCE AMONG US WHENEVER YOUR WORD HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED,
YOUR SACRAMENTAL GIFTS OF BREAD AND CUP SHARED,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR DISCIPLES YOUNG AND OLD WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AND NURTURED HERE
IN FAITH,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR ALL WHO HAVE COME HERE ASKING YOUR BLESSING IN MARRIAGE, SEEKING
TO LOVE WITH YOUR LOVE,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR GENERATIONS OF ELDERS, PASTORS, AND MODERATORS WHO HAVE LED AND
LOVED US, AND BY THE OFFERING OF THEIR GIFTS, EQUIPPED US FOR THE WORK
OF MINISTRY,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO HAVE STOOD AMONG US, WHOSE MEMORY STILL
ENLIVENS OUR FAITH AND EMBOLDENS OUR WITNESS,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

RECEIVE OUR GRATITUDE, HOLY GOD,
FOR THE YEARS THROUGH WHICH YOU HAVE LED US,
AND OPEN US TO THE FUTURE YOU PROMISE.
IN THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD,
GRANT US YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE WORK OF MINISTRY
AND YOUR CHALLENGE TO OUR COMPLACENCY.
SUSTAINED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, MAY WE FIND JOY AND
PEACE, STRENGTH AND COURAGE AS WE CONTINUE TO
SERVE YOU WITH ENERGY, INTELLIGENCE, IMAGINATION, AND LOVE. **AMEN.**

(ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK OF OCCASIONAL SERVICES)



RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MODERATOR: REV. ALEXANDRA LUSAK

FORMER MODERATORS

REV. ROBERT LAMAR	1960s to 1990s
REV. JAMES MILLER	1998 to 2002
REV. DONNA ELIA	2002 to 2007
REV. JOSEPH SHOOK	2007 to 2011

MEMBERS OF SESSION

**JAMES BROOKENS
GAYLE BURGESS
MURIEL FRASHER
DIANA HINCHCLIFF
MELISSA MCGRATH
MARY JANE SCHROEDER**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & DIRECTOR OF THE VILLAGE VOICES
JAN BISHOP**

**“A HISTORY OF THE RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH”
BY NANCY CHASE & BARBARA DUDLEY
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**RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 47, RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147
WWW.RVILLEPRES.ORG**