

# RENSSELAERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



(JOHN ELDRIDGE)

**A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 220<sup>TH</sup> 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**

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

**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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