RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH
NOVEMBER 29TH 2026
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude: "Jesus, Meine Freude" J.S. Bach

Greeting: (Responsively)
L: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
P: Amen.

Call to Worship:
L: The Lord is glorious and exalted.
P: Lord, shine in our hearts and lives.
L: God's people are often in distress and sorrow.
P: Lord, show your might and deliver us from evil.
L: We sometimes do not feel the Lord's presence.
P: O Lord, let your face again shine on us.
L: The Lord was the shepherd of his people Israel.
P: Lord, lead us in our way and guide us in our walk.
L: In this Advent season we stand on tiptoe –
P: Immanuel, invade our lives!

Salutation:
L: Grace, peace, and mercy be yours from God the Father, Jesus Christ his Son, and the Holy Spirit now and always.
P: Amen

*Song of Praise: *"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"* R #746

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sing: "Imagine" R #72

Passing of the Peace: Leader: … The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you

*Sing: *"Grace, Peace, and Love"* Justin Dimbeng

Prayer of Confession: ***God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things – our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone. Amen.***

Words of Assurance: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid. ***Thanks be to God.***

Passing of the Peace: *Leader: … The Peace of Christ be with you.*
People: And also with you

*Sing: "Grace, Peace, and Love" Justin Dimbeng

Music Ministry: "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Christmas Carols from German 17th Century
Trans: Theodore baker, Harm: Michael Praetorius
RRC Choir with Justin Dimbeng on Piano

WE EXPERIENCE THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 9:6 p. 638
Romans 8: 18-27 p. 158
(Response: Thanks are to God!)

Message for Children

Sermon: "The Counselor Is In!"
Rev. Mary B. Stegink, Pastor

*Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" R #59

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

*Apostles' Creed (see back cover of hymnal)

Offering

*Doxology #965

*Prayer of Dedication

Announcements & Prayer Concerns

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn: "My Hope is Built On Nothing Less" R #772
*Benediction

Postlude: "All Things Bright & Beautiful" John Worst

*Indicates where those who are able may stand. Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments. Kindly fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and place it in the collection plate. If we can be of help, please call the church office at 201-529-3075.

2026 Ramapo Consistory

Roger Knauss, Vice-president, Deacon, Building and Grounds
Michelle Ketendjian, Clerk, Elder, Hospitality and Fellowship
Duke Golz, Elder, Personnel, Worship and Nurture, Building and Grounds
Sharon Pike, Elder, Hospitality and Fellowship
Rob Bowns, Deacon, Building and Grounds
Laura Hall, Deacon, Personnel
Nancy Johnston, Deacon, Hospitality and Fellowship

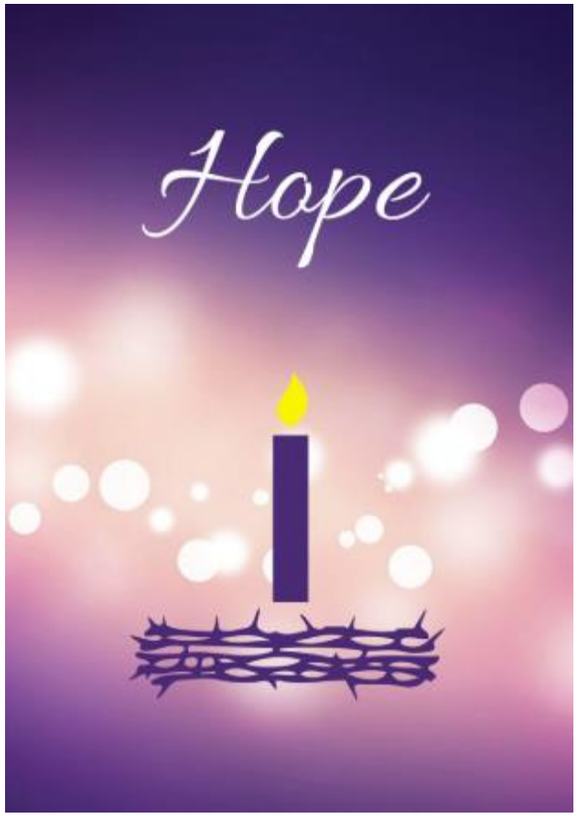
WELCOME TO RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH!

We are delighted you chose to worship with us this morning. We sing from two different hymnals notated by the letters "R" (the red "Lift Up Your Hearts" hymnal in the pew rack) and "G" (the green "Sing" book). Following the passing of the peace, we sing a song, "Grace, Peace and Love," which was written for our congregation by our music director, Justin Dimbeng. You can find the words on a laminated sheet in the pew rack. Children ages 3 - 8th grade are invited to attend Sunday school following the Children's Message. They are dismissed with their teacher, Marian Latz, and will return at the close of the service. Please consider joining us in the coffee room following the service for a time of fellowship and treats! Again - we are happy to have you with us this morning!

THE CONSISTORY would like to add a 4th elder to the consistory. This will require a congregational vote to change the by-laws. A short meeting will be held following the service on Dec. 6. If you are interested in serving on the consistory or would like to nominate someone, please talk with a current consistory member.

Consistory Meeting – Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00pm.

Worship & Nurture – Wednesday, December 12th at 7:30pm.



RAMAPO REFORMED CHURCH

100 Island Road, Mahwah
New Jersey 07430
201-529-3075
Rev. Mary B. Stegink, Pastor
www.ramaporeformedchurch.org

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, 2026
10:30AM