



Beloved Community

Beloved, let us love one another, because
love is from God. - 1 John 4:7

Reformation Lutheran Church

December 15, 2024 | 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Reformation!

Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people, **SERVE** our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

Welcome! First time visitors are invited to stop by our welcome center in the lobby. All are invited to **check in** with us using the friendship pads in your row or online at relcmedia.org/hello.

Land Acknowledgement – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Children in worship are a blessing. We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps. A Pray Ground space is available during worship at the back of the sanctuary. Worship Bags can be filled at the Pray Ground and taken to your seat. A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby. A family restroom is located on the lower level.

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
 - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

Our Prayer List can be found at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch. To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, rlc@relcmedia.org.

Williams Personal PA Receivers are available for use by the hearing impaired.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Gathering

*Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are indicated in bold

Prelude

We Have A Savior

Glover and Morgan

Welcome and Announcements

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

[Silence is kept for reflection]

Almighty God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.

In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

Gathering Song*

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

[The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.]

5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
heav' - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to mi - ser - y. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Greeting*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

[The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.]



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Gospel*

Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Hymn of the Day*

Come Light Our Hearts

Chorus **For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You**

Verse 1 **O Lord of life our only hope
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come come light our hearts**

Chorus

Verse 2 **Oh joy above all other loves
In you we find more than enough
We come as we are O heal and restore
Come light our hearts**

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Apostles' Creed*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession*

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy
Amen.

Peace*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

[The people greet one another with "Peace be with you" and a sign of Christ's peace.]

Meal

Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]

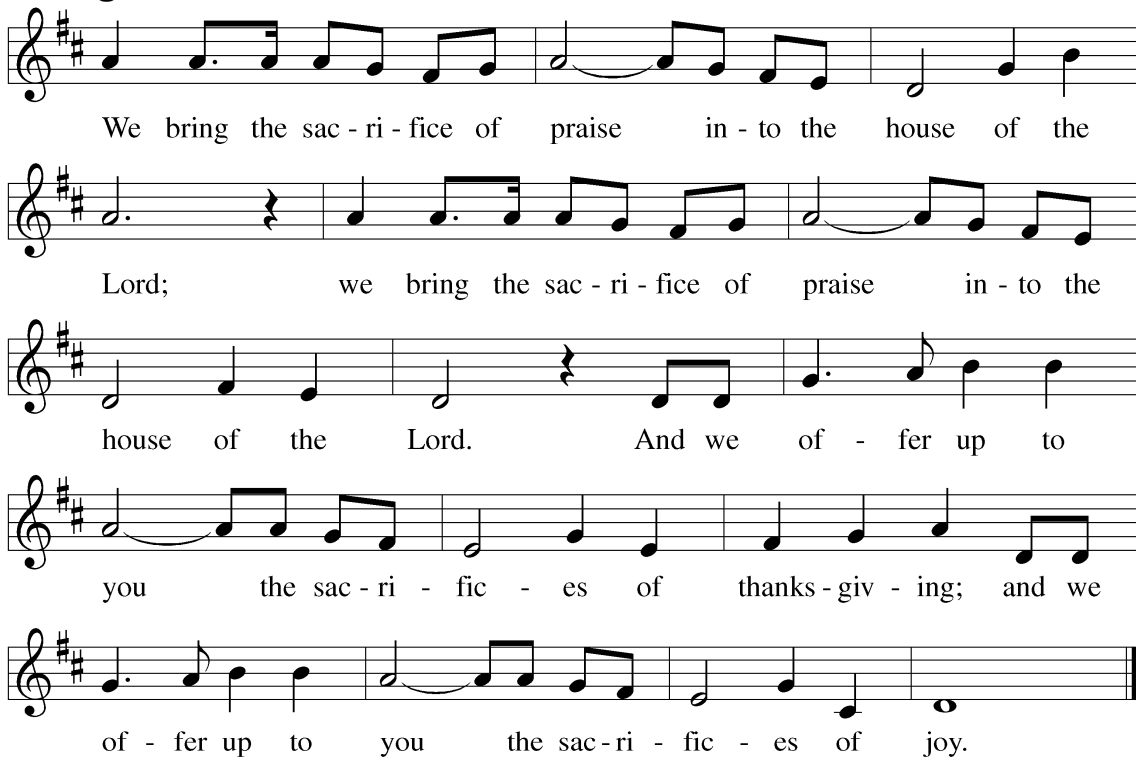


Musical Offering

Burn Like A Star

Rend Collective

Setting the Table*



We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the house of the
Lord; we bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the
house of the Lord. And we of-fer up to
you the sac-ri-fic-es of thanks-giv-ing; and we
of-fer up to you the sac-ri-fic-es of joy.

Offering Prayer*

Let us pray. God our provider,
**by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and
bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast
love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Maher
Flaten

Vocals

D Bm7 A#m A G D

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Hosts.

G D A bm

5 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-

G maj7 D/A A sus D G D

7 san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the

A bm G maj7 D/A A bm D D/F#

10 name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Ho-

G maj7 D/A A D

13 san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End ...
... in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer*

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

Communion

God fills the hungry with good things. Come with joy to the feast.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

1. Receive the bread (for gluten free, ask a pastor during distribution)
2. Dip the bread in one of the chalices
 - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - Red wine is held by the Communion assistant to the side of the pastor

Children and those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

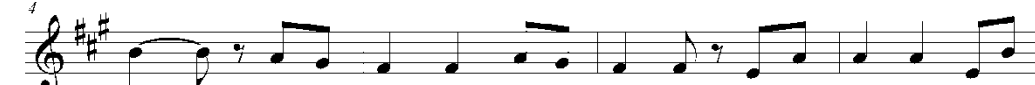
[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Lamb of God

$\bullet = 73$

Vocals 


I come bro-ken to be mend-ed I come wound-ed to be

⁴
Vox. 

healed. I come des-p'rate to be res-cued. I come emp-ty to be

⁸
Vox. 

filled. I come guilt-y to be par-doned by the blood of Christ, the

¹²
Vox. 

lamb. And I'm wel-comed with o-pen arms, praiseGod just as I

¹⁷
Vox. 

am.

Communion Song

God With Us

Verse 1 **Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus **Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us**

Verse 2 **Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus

Bridge **You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(REPEAT X 3)**

Chorus

repeat Chorus

Ending **Oh God with us
You are God with us**

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Table Blessing*

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion*

Let us pray. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing*

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song*

Even So Come

Verse 1 **All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord Jesus is coming soon**

Verse 2 **Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame Jesus is coming soon**

Chorus **Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come**

Verse 3 **There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true Jesus is coming soon**

Chorus

Bridge **So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon**

Chorus 2 **Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come**

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Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Instrumental Musicians

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Today's Worship Team

relcmedia.org/worshipteam



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Welcome to Reformation!

Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.



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