

An abstract, vibrant background featuring a large, dark 'X' shape that divides the space. The background is filled with swirling, translucent colors in shades of orange, red, yellow, and blue, creating a sense of movement and energy. The overall composition is dynamic and celebratory.

# JOY TO THE WORLD

*The Lord is Come!*

**Christmas Eve 2024 6:00 pm**

**Reformation Lutheran Church**

102 W. Rose Tree Rd, Media, PA 19063 • 610-891-0600 • [www.relcmedia.org](http://www.relcmedia.org)

# 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](http://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](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call or email the church office at 610-891-0600, [rlc@relcmedia.org](mailto:rlc@relcmedia.org).

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

**Large print bulletins are available from an usher.**

# Gathering

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\*Please stand as you are able

**Congregational responses are indicated in bold**

## Prelude

Light of the World

Lauren Daigle

## Welcome and Announcements

This is the day Christ the Lord is born!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 283

Verse 1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

Chorus **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Verse 2 **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!** Chorus

Verse 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, in the highest:** Chorus

Verse 4 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:** Chorus

## Greeting\*

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary,  
be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day\*

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

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### First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation\*

[The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.]

Al - le - lu - ia we bring good news Al - le - lu - ia of a great joy

Al - le - lu - ia we bring good news Al - le - lu - ia of a great joy

ti - dings from Hea - ven tid - ings from Hea - ven born now to us a

Sa - vior Al - le - lu - ia

we bring good news Al - le - lu - ia of a great joy

## Gospel\*

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

[The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.]

## **Carol**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 289

Verse 1 **Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain **Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Verse 2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

Verse 3 **Come to Bethlehem and see,  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

## **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

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### Offering

[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



### Musical Offering

We Have a Savior

Glover and Morgan

### Setting the Table\*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn 276

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

### Offering Prayer\*

Let us pray. Good and loving God,  
**we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches  
of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let our gifts be a  
source of blessing for others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, . . .

. . .With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

With the confidence of 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!**

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  - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
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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:]

The First Noel

Hymn 300

Verse 1 **The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!, Born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 2 **They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

Verse 3 **And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

Verse 4 **This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

Verse 5 **Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

Verse 1 **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Verse 2 **The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Verse 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

### **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. Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Candle Lighting\***

[The Pastor gives light to the acolytes who in turn give light to the first worshiper in each row, who will pass it on to others. **The lighted candle is never tilted, but always held upright when giving light to another.**]

## Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Carol

Silent Night

Hymn 281

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

## Sending

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### Blessing\*

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

[The candles are carefully extinguished.]

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

## **Dismissal\***

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

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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.

### **Instrumental Musicians**

Joe McGuth, Drums  
Matthew Murphy, Electric Guitar  
Michael Hagarman, Bass  
Kristin Forster, Flute  
Pam Poe, Celtic Harp  
Marie Allsman, Acoustic Guitar

### **Today's Worship Team**

[relcmedia.org/worshipteam](http://relcmedia.org/worshipteam)





<b>The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski</b> , Lead Pastor	PastorAlina@relcmedia.org ext. 109
<b>The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan</b> , Pastor	PastorEileen@relcmedia.org ext. 108
<b>Christine Corson</b> , Senior Administrative Assistant	ccorson@relcmedia.org ext. 112
<b>Andrea Menta</b> , Administrative Assistant	amenta@relcmedia.org ext. 110
<b>Valerie Rozek</b> , Director of Music	varozek@relcmedia.org 440-478-8163
<b>Erik Flaten</b> , Director of Contemporary Music	erik.flaten@relcmedia.org 509-528-8979
<b>Debbie Conley</b> , Council President	president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | [relcmedia.org](http://relcmedia.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm; Friday, CLOSED