

W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P



Renewed in Christ

By God's great mercy **we have been born anew**
to a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3b

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
8:30 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
www.relcmmedia.org**

Welcome to Reformation!

A special welcome to visitors – we pray that the encounter with God in worship will nurture us in Christian faith and equip us for our life of loving service and justice in the world.

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.



Worship bags (filled with coloring books and crayons) are available at the back of the sanctuary and can be taken to your seat.

A play space is also available at the back of the sanctuary with additional books and soft toys.

A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

All are welcome at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.



Our Prayer List includes prayer requests for a 3-week period. If continued prayers are desired, please make the request again. To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send e-mail to rlc@relcmedia.org. If you would like your prayer request to be e-mailed to the congregation, please state that in your request.

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

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021 · 8:30 am

☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Veni, Emmanuel

Marilyn Bierly

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

☒ **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 sisters and brothers. 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.

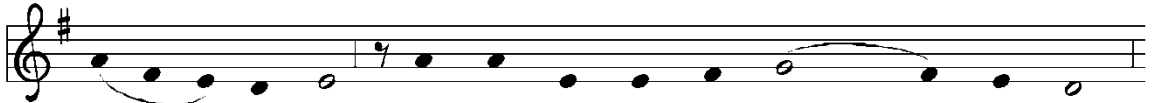
☒ **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!



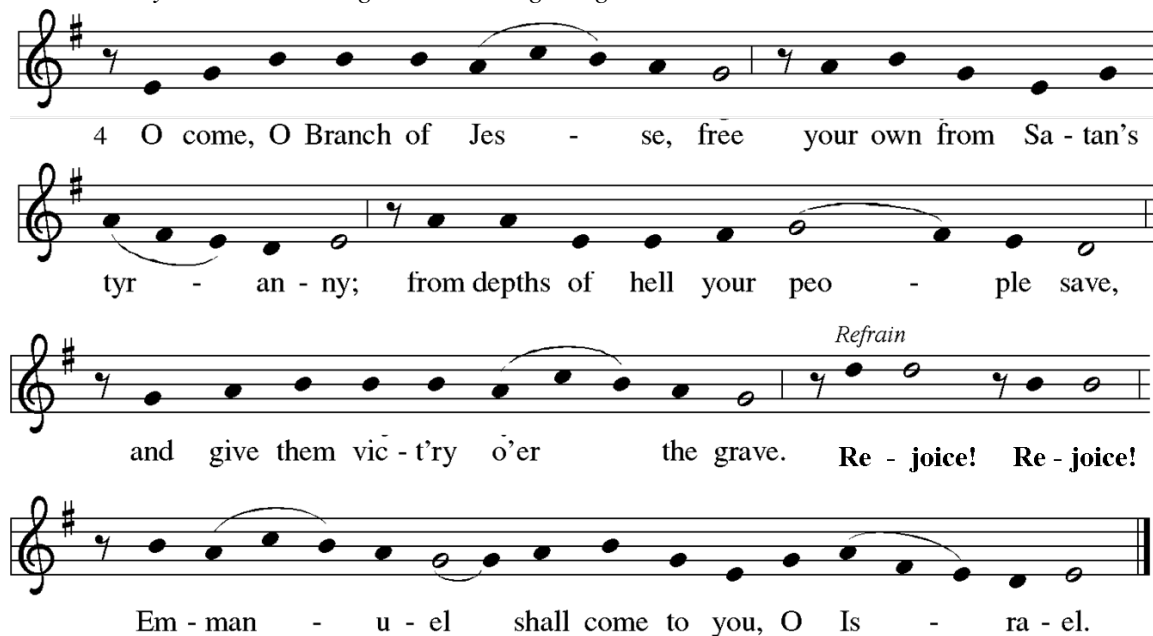
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.



4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re - joice!
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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

A A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

A A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, 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 3:1-6

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

After the reading has concluded:

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON ON THE STEPS – VISIT WITH BISHOP NICHOLAS

SERMON

Pastor Wayne Matthias-Long

With David Chiles - *Executive Director, Lutheran Settlement House*

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

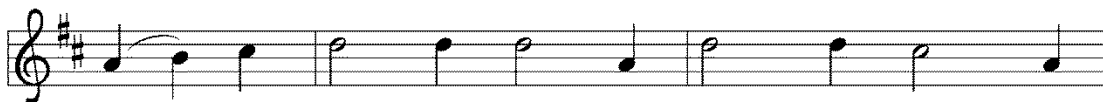
HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

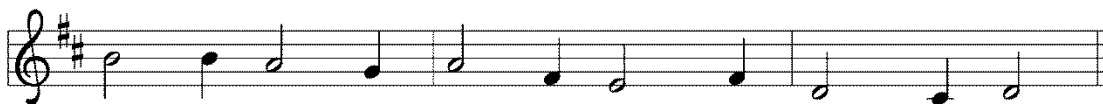
Hymn No. 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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

Opportunity will be provided for you to offer prayers for concerns on your heart, silently or aloud. Please conclude each prayer petition with the words, "Lord, in your mercy."

A Filled with expectation and longing, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

A Hear the prayers of your people, O God, and in your mercy grant us all we need, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

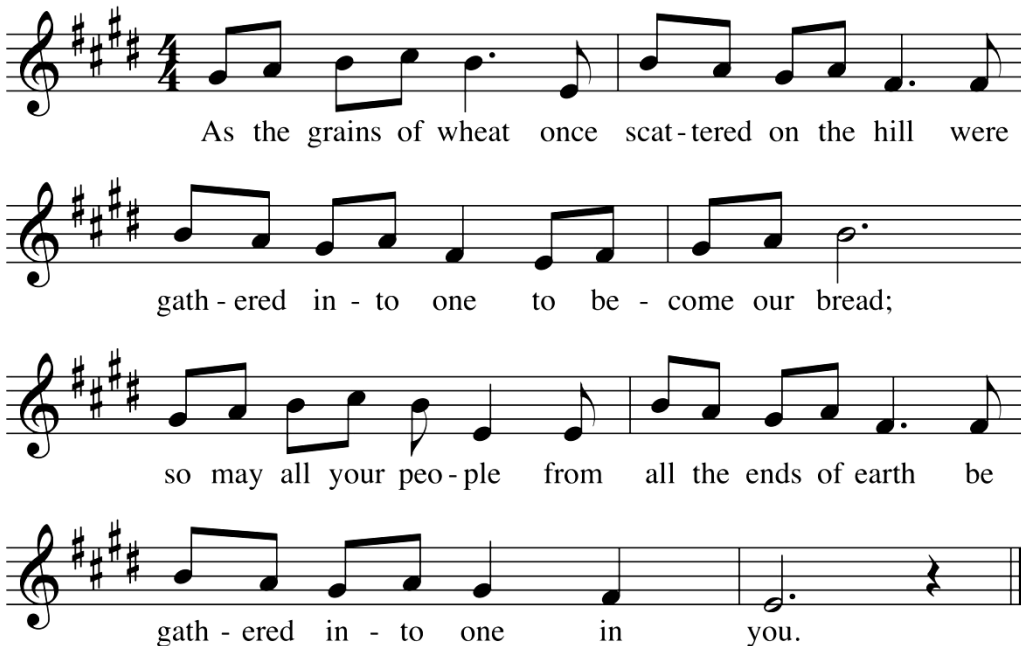
OFFERING

Tithes and offerings are gathered for the mission of the church

MUSICAL OFFERING *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* Mary Louise Bringle

SETTING THE TABLE

The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be
gath - ered in - to one in you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. God of abundance,
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**


P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End, . . .
. . . Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
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

☐ Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord! We believe and teach that Christ is present in the mystery of the sacrament of Holy Communion and that by communing with him we receive forgiveness of our sin.

Communion will be distributed by intinction – after you receive the bread, you may dip it in the chalice on the bread tray, which has grape juice, or the chalice held by the communion assistant, which has wine. Children who have not received instruction for communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to walk to communion, please let an usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available upon request to the pastor distributing the bread.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

After all have communed, the assembly stands.

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER

- A** 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 in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

SENDING

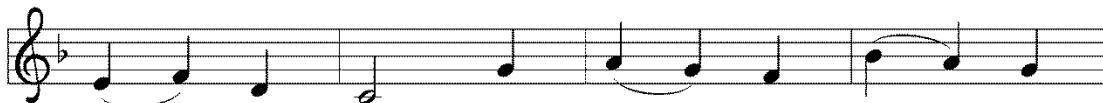
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

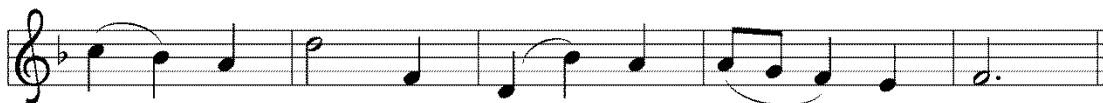
- P** The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.
C Amen.



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

DISMISSAL

A Called by Christ,

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

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Kristin Langlois

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God's People Serving in Worship Today

<i>Acolyte</i>	Madison Benzing
<i>Crucifer</i>	Lexi Benzing
<i>Advent Candle Lighter</i>	Hazlett Family
<i>Reader</i>	Adam Fernandez
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	David Fontes
<i>Liturgist</i>	John Grantland
<i>Ushers</i>	Christine Pompilii Nancy Clark George Clark
<i>Livestreaming Director</i>	Michael Sottile
<i>Sound System</i>	Rob Schaub
<i>Altar Care</i>	Barb Williams & The Hathaway Family

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

WELCOME: Called by Christ, we invite and welcome all people. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, age, abilities, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or employment status. We welcome all without regard to religious belief or identity, citizenship, political views, or anything that might divide us. Our unity is in Christ.

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Team

To contact those with an extension please call **610-891-0600** and use the listed extension number or send e-mail to the listed address.

Urgent Pastoral Care Line: 610-314-7747

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am – 1:00pm
Friday, Closed