



Christmas Eve 2022 4:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran Church

102 W. Rose Tree Rd, Media, PA 19063 • 610-891-0600 • 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

Christmas Eve 2022

4:00 pm

Welcome to worship on this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. May your life and faith be filled with joy by the good news that God comes among us in the birth of the prince of peace, Jesus the Christ.

P = Presiding Minister **A** = Assisting Minister **C** = Congregation

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P This is the day Christ the Lord is born!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn No. 283

**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:**

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

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

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

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

GREETING

☐ The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

☐ A reading from Isaiah.

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. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY
Featuring the Children's Choir

ANTHEMS

Gloria
Lullaby

Robin Cain
Natalie Sleeth

PRAYERS

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 In joy and wonder, we 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 Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.

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

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Children's Choir

Nancy Raabe

The assembly stands.

SETTING THE TABLE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn No. 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

- A** Let us pray. Good and loving God,
C 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

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 God thanks and praise.**

P 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.

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

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

C **Amen.**

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

C **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

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

C **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.

The assembly sings the following during communion:

Away in a Manger

Hymn No. 277

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

After all have communed, the assembly stands.

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

PRAYER

- ☐ 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 No. 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

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

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.

CAROL

Joy to the World

Hymn No. 267

**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

A Called by Christ,

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

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!

**To see the list of today's worship volunteers,
you can go to relcmedia.org/worshipteam,
scan here:**



**or visit the Worship Team
information stand in the lobby.**

OUR MISSION

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

WELCOME

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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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.

All other phone calls: 610-891-0600

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 3:30pm
Friday, Closed