

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



**First Sunday in Lent  
February 18, 2024  
8:30 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church  
102 West Rose Tree Road  
Media, Pennsylvania 19063  
[www.relcmedia.org](http://www.relcmedia.org)**

# Welcome to Reformation!

**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 also wish to recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**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.

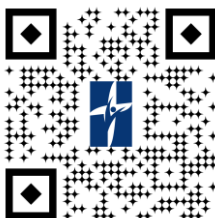
**A professionally staffed nursery** is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

**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 Christ is present in the bread and wine. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.

**Our Prayer List** can be found at [relcmedia.org/virtualchurch](http://relcmedia.org/virtualchurch). To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send an e-mail to [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.**



**Scan to give online through our secure platform or through Venmo.**

# WORSHIP REFLECTIONS & DRAWING SPACE

This space is for everyone to make notes, ask questions, doodle, and offer insights or ideas. Feel free to tear out this page to take with you.

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## QUOTE TO CONSIDER

While I am asking God how I should observe an upcoming Lenten season, I may remember where I spiritually was during Lent the previous year and reflect on what has changed and what has stayed the same. I hear and read the familiar stories about Jesus as he approached the cross and am reminded that while my circumstances change, the truths of the gospel remain the same. - *Charlotte Donlon*

## QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What reminds you that God's love is steadfast?

# First Sunday in Lent

## February 18, 2024 · 8:30 am

**C** = Congregation

**A** = Assisting Minister

**P** = Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

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

*PRELUDE*

*Come, Ye Disconsolate*

setting, J. Bert Carlson

*WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made.

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

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

**P** By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, † God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**C** **Amen.**



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

### 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.**

KYRIE

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**B** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

**B** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.                    **A** For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

**C** A - men

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

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

## FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

**A** A reading from Genesis.

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

**A** A reading from first Peter.

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



**☩** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL*

Mark 1:9-15

**☩** The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**☩** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*After the reading has concluded:*

**☩** The Gospel of the Lord.

**☩** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*SERMON ON THE STEPS*

*SERMON*

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

*Silence for reflection.*

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



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
 and lead us out of death to life.

### 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** Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, 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** Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus 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*

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

Arr. for bells, Albert Zabel

*Children are invited to join the pastors at the altar.*

## SETTING THE TABLE

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



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Holy God,

**C** gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

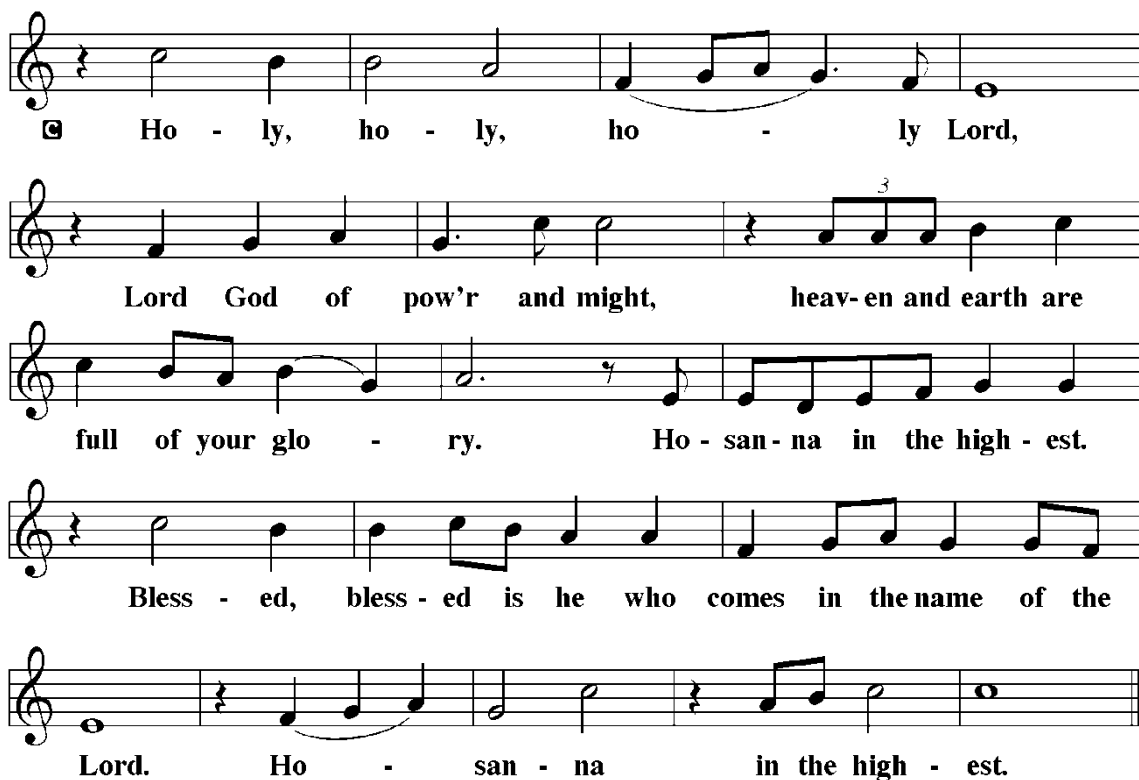
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**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.

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



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

☐ Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, . . .  
. . . be all honor and glory, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **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:

LAMB OF GOD



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;




have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



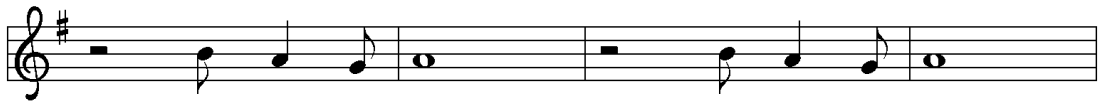
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or	Jew,	ser - vant	or	free,
2	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	works,
3	Grain for	the	fields,	scat - tered	and	grown,



wom - an	or	man,	no	more.	
one	in	the	Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to	one	for	all.	

*After all have communed, the assembly stands.*

**TABLE BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A** Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.**



# SENDING

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

## BLESSING

☐ Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

☑ Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*Jesus, Still Lead On*

Hymn No. 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

*DISMISSAL*

**A** Called by Christ,

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

**A** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE*

*Foundation*

setting, Wilbur Held

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



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

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## **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.

## 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.

The Rev. Alina S. Gayeuski <i>Lead Pastor</i>	ext. 109 PastorAlina@relcmedia.org
The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan <i>Pastor</i>	ext. 108 PastorEileen@relcmedia.org
Vicar Paula Estornell <i>Deacon Intern</i>	VicarPaula@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson <i>Senior Administrative Assistant</i>	ext. 112 rlc@relcmedia.org
Andrea Menta <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	ext. 110 rlc@relcmedia.org
Valerie Rozek <i>Director of Music</i>	cell: 440-478-8163 varozek@relcmedia.org
Erik Flaten <i>Director of Contemporary Music</i>	cell: 509-528-8979 erik.flaten@relcmedia.org
Liz Hazlett <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	lizhazlett@relcmedia.org
John Grantland <i>Council President</i>	president@relcmedia.org

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