



Beloved Community

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

Reformation Lutheran Church

December 1, 2024 | 11:00 am

First 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
 - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - 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

Come Light Our Hearts

McCracken

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*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 257

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features two vocal parts (1 and 2) and a refrain. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

[The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.]

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. *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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

A reading from Revelation.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Pastor Alina Gayeuski

Prayer Litany – Longing for the Light of Healing and Hope

As we wait and watch for the light of Christ coming into the world, let us pray for all who are longing for healing and hope in these days.

We pray for those who live with illness in mind, body or spirit, for those who experience continued pain, and for those living with injuries. Let us pray that the light of new hope and new life will illumine their days.

Open our eyes, Lord, to the coming of your light that lifts darkness from our lives.

We pray for those who live in the darkness of sadness and loss and for those who struggle to know love in their lives. Let us pray that the compassionate light of Christ will accompany them on their journey, surrounding them with God's love.

Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming. Melt the hardness that keeps us from you and from each other.

We pray for those who weep, for those who are victims of war and those who are prisoners, for those who are victims of violence and oppression, for those without homes or without food or without hope. Let us pray that the light of Christ's healing will ease their pain and their tears.

Open our world, Lord, frozen by injustice. Clothe it with your renewing love.

We pray for all those longing for the light to break into their darkness, that their burdens may be lightened, the chaos of this world be calmed, and the hope of God's promise be restored, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

Candle Lighting and Prayer for Healing

[All are invited to come forward to light a candle as a symbol of prayer and of the hope of the light of Christ coming into the world. You are also invited to come forward for personal prayer at one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary. Please proceed to the first open prayer station. As you come to the prayer partner, you can name specific prayer concerns or ask for a general blessing of healing. During this time, everyone is invited to join in singing the Hymn of the Day which can be found on the following page.]

Hymn of the Day*

Christ Be Our Light

Hymn 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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

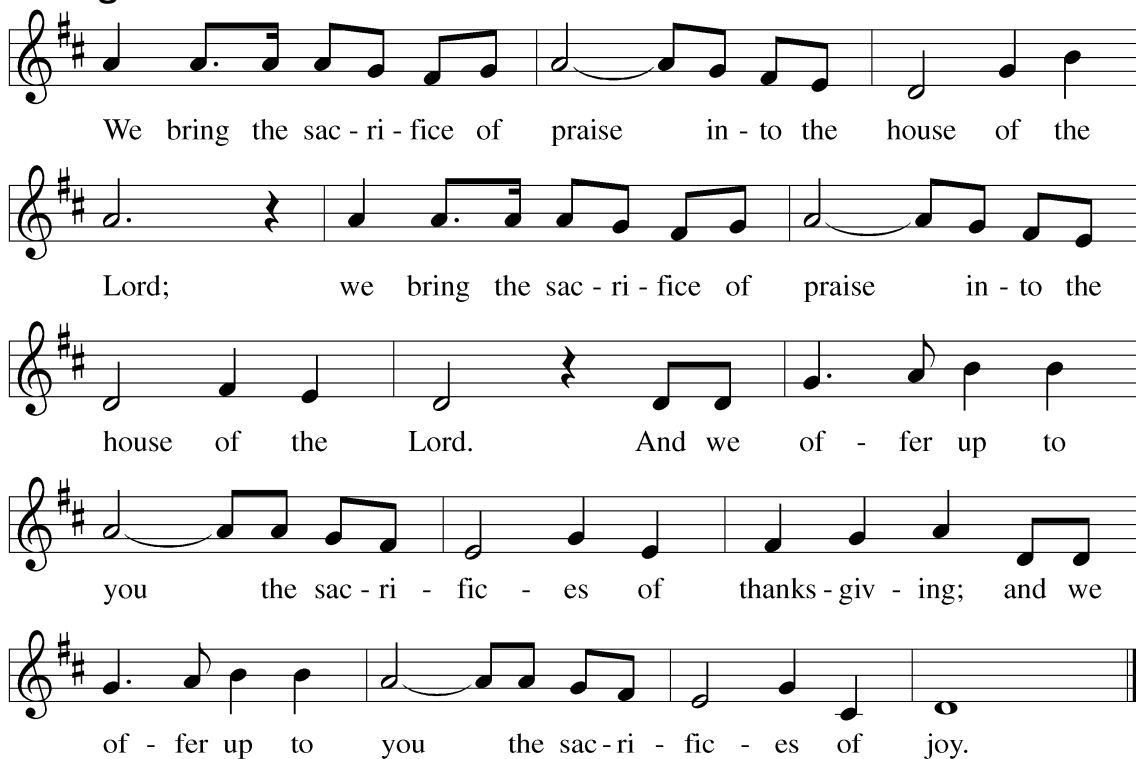
[Use pew envelopes or scan code to give online]



Musical Offering

O Come O Come Emmanuel
Arranged by Smallbone, Smallbone, Campbell, Lynch,
Kanicka, and Backus

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 maj 7 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 maj 7 D/A A bm D D/F#

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

G maj 7 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
 - Grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
 - 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.

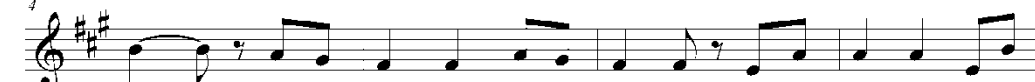
[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Lamb of God


$\bullet = 73$

Vocals 


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

⁴
Vox. 

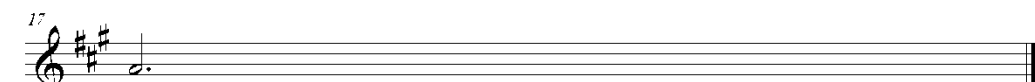
healed. I come des-p'rate to be res-cued. I come emp-ty to be

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

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**

CCLI Song # 7054135. Sandra McCracken © 2015 Integrity Worship Music; Paper News Publishing. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 769144

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 of Communion*

Let us pray. Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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*

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble

Verse 1 **Did you feel the mountains tremble, Did you hear the oceans roar
When the people rose to sing, Jesus Christ the risen One**

Verse 2 **Did you feel the people tremble, Did you hear the singers roar
When the lost began to sing of, Jesus Christ the saving One**

Pre-Chorus **And we can see that God You're moving
A mighty river through the nations
And young and old will turn to Jesus
Fling wide your gates, Prepare the way of the risen Lord**

Chorus **Open up the doors and let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing
Songs that bring Your hope, Songs that bring Your joy
Dancers who dance upon injustice**

Verse 3 **Do you feel the darkness tremble
When all the saints join in one song
And all the streams flow as one river
To wash away our brokenness**

Pre-Chorus **And here we see that God You're moving
A time of jubilee is coming, When young and old return to Jesus
Fling wide your heavenly gates, Prepare the way of the risen Lord**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 1097028. Martin Smith © 1994 Curious? Music UK (Admin. by Integrity Music). For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 769144

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

Noah Adams, Drums

Today's Worship Team

relcmedia.org/worshipteam



Liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright 2024, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #34013. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Eucharist setting Now the Feast and Celebration, Text and Music: Marty Haugen; ©1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723332. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-7233.

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.



The Rev. Dr. Alina S. Gayeuski, Lead Pastor

PastorAlina@relcmedia.org
ext. 109

The Rev. Eileen Ruppel-Doan, Pastor

PastorEileen@relcmedia.org
ext. 108

Christine Corson, Senior Administrative Assistant

ccorson@relcmedia.org
ext. 112

Andrea Menta, Administrative Assistant

amenta@relcmedia.org
ext. 110

Valerie Rozek, Director of Music

varozek@relcmedia.org
440-478-8163

Erik Flaten, Director of Contemporary Music

erik.flaten@relcmedia.org
509-528-8979

Debbie Conley, Council President

president@relcmedia.org

102 West Rose Tree Road, Media PA 19063 | 610-891-0600 | relcmedia.org

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