



Reformation Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025 | 8:30 am

Third 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
 - 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

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.

Worship is livestreamed and recorded. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the balcony or speak to a pastor.

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

An Advent Meditation

setting, David Lasky

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

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!



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

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

[The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.]

5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
heav' - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to mi - ser - y. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
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.**

Kyrie*

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

C 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-being of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from James.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, siblings, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Siblings, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, siblings, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

[The assembly stands to welcome the gospel as it is brought forward in procession.]



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*

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Sermon

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

Hymn of the Day*

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Hymn 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - jice, re - jice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Apostles' Creed*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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*

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.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls*

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, scan to give online,
or text 844-628-3176 with the amount you wish to give.]



Musical Offering

People, Look East
Chancel Choir

arr. John Leavitt

Setting the Table*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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:

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a common time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a triplet of eighth notes. The third staff has a quarter rest. The fourth staff has a quarter rest. The fifth staff has a quarter rest.

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
 - 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

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



♩ 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.

Communion Song

He Came Down

Hymn 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

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

Blessing*

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, +
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song*

Prepare the Royal Highway

Hymn 264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

Postlude

Hark the Glad Sound!

Setting, John Leavitt

Today's Worship Team
relcmedia.org/worshipteam



Liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright 2025, 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-723332. All rights reserved. An Advent Meditation © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. O Come, O Come Emmanuel Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn Text and music ©1983 GIA Publications, Inc. People, Look East Text ©1928 Estate of Eleanor Farjeon ©2014 Hal Leonard Corporation. He Came Down arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. agent. Prepare the Royal Highway Text ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Hark the Glad Sound ©1991 Augsburg Fortress.

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
Vicar Megan Eppleman , Seminarian	VicarMegan@relcmedia.org
Christine Corson , Operations Manager	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
John Grantland , 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