



Reformation Lutheran Church

December 21, 2025 | 11:00 am

Fourth 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

Advent Hymn

Christy Nockels

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*

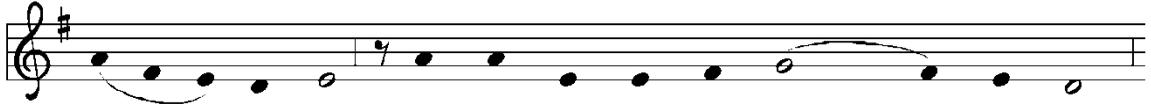
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

5 O come, O Key of Da - vid come, and o - pen wide our



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

heav - 'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

and close the path to mi - ser - y. Re-joice! Re-joice!



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. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

[The assembly continues to sing the Gathering Song.]

6. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of jus - tice,
Now draw near. Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of night,
and death's dark sha-dows put to flight *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.**

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*



- 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 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Blessing of the Greens

Sermon

Vicar Megan Eppleman

Hymn of the Day*

God With Us

Verse 1 **Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus **Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us**

Verse 2 **Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus

Bridge **You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord) (REPEAT X 3)**

Chorus

repeat Chorus

Ending **Oh God with us
You are God with us**

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Welcoming New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Friends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

[Each new member responds individually:]

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give you thanks for our new members, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. **Amen.**

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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

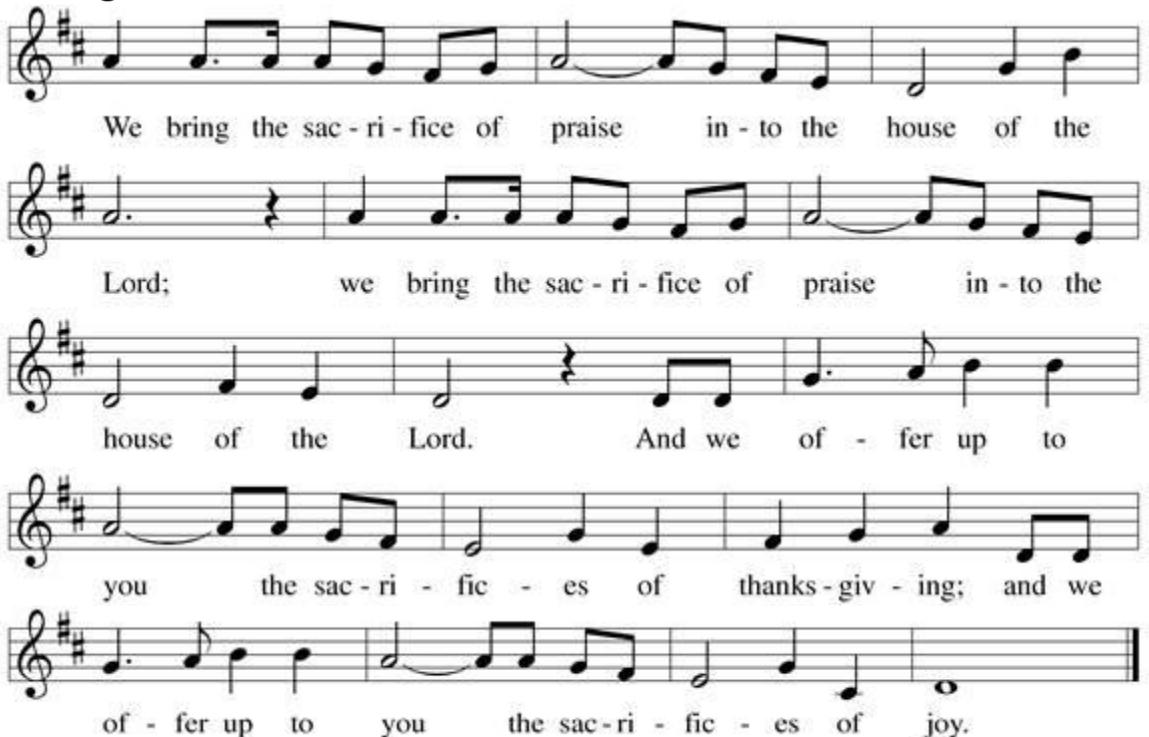
Offering

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



Musical Offering Come Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Rita West Gernon

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

D Bm7 A#m A G D

Vocals

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 maj7 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 maj7 D/A A Bm D D/B#

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

G maj7 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
 - White grape juice is on the bread tray held by the pastor
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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

Vocals

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins, of the world have

mer - cy on us

grant us peace

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. The first staff is labeled 'Vocals' and contains the melody with lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins, of the world have'. Below the first staff are three chord symbols: B♭, F, and O. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'mer - cy on us' and 'grant us peace'. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B♭).

Communion Song

God's Highway

Verse 1 **My feet are strong my eyes are clear
I cannot see the way from here
But on we go You know the way
And in Your arms You keeps me safe**

Chorus **Fear not keep on watch and pray
Walk in the light of God's highway**

Verse 2 **The shadows flee the valley's deep
But evil cannot conquer me
Your rod and staff they protect me
You give me rest You give me peace**

Chorus

Verse 3 **I see the shore from troubled seas
This tiny ship that carries me
It is not yet but it will be
So heaven come it's You we need**

Chorus

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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

Even So Come

- Verse 1 **All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon**
- Verse 2 **Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon**
- Chorus **Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come Even so come Lord Jesus come**
- Verse 3 **There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon**
- Chorus
- Bridge **So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon**
- Chorus 2 **Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come**

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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.

Today's Worship Team
relcmedia.org/worshipteam



Instrumental Musicians

Erik Flaten, Piano

Matthew Murphy, Guitar

Michael Hagarman, Bass

Jack Burdwood, Drums

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.

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