



Reformation Lutheran Church

January 4, 2026 | 11:00 am

Epiphany of Our Lord

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

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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The boundless riches of Christ are the gift of God's grace to all people. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song*

Shout For Joy

Verse 1 **Pour out your fervent praise There's a song to raise
Like a banner high Lift up your grateful heart
To the Morning Star He's alive and here with us**

Chorus **Shout for joy
For the Son of God is the Saving One
He's the Saving One
Shout for joy
See what love has done
He has come for us
He's the Saving One**

Verse 2 **We stood on sinking sand He reached out His hand
Pulled us to His side We turned our hearts away
He was strong to save Now our Savior reigns in us**

Chorus

Interlude **Oh oh oh oh
Oh oh oh oh**

Bridge **There is no other God like You
We sing the praises that You're due
Jesus You have saved us
There is no other God who reigns
You are the Name above all names
Jesus You have saved us**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 5808429 Jason Ingram | Lincoln Brewster | Paul Baloche © 2010 Spirit Nashville Three (Admin. by Crescendo Royalty Funding LP) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Spirit Nashville Three (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Integrity Worship Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) Leadworship Songs (Admin. by Integrity Music) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

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. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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.]

vocals



Word of God, en - throned, dwell in

4



us for-ev-er more. Love has come to show the way.

9



Hal-le - lu____ jah, peace be with____

13



us. Love has come to show____ the way.

Gospel*

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon on the Steps

Litany for a Star

Leader: A long time ago in a little village far away from here, a star shone bright. This star was so bright that shepherds from all over the land stopped what they were doing. They looked up at the star and sang,

People: “**Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are.**”

Leader: The animals, too, were taken back with wonder. As they looked up at the night sky, they noticed a star shining brighter than ever before.

People: **Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are.**

Leader: For that star gave the message that hope had come, for that night in Bethlehem, a child was born. The messiah! The Prince of Peace!

People: **Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are.**

Leader: Each night when you put your head on the pillow, look up and you'll see the stars shining bright reminding you just how much God loves you.

People: **Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are.**

Sermon

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

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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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*

As God's beloved children, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

[After each prayer petition:]

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

[The prayers conclude:]

We commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

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. Merciful God,
receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 -

Gmaj7 D/A Asus D G D

7 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

A bm Gmaj7 D/A A bm D D/F#

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

Gmaj7 D/A A D

13 san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, . . . both now and forever.

Lord's Prayer*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the table where we celebrate the presence of Christ. As ushers direct you forward:

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Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat.

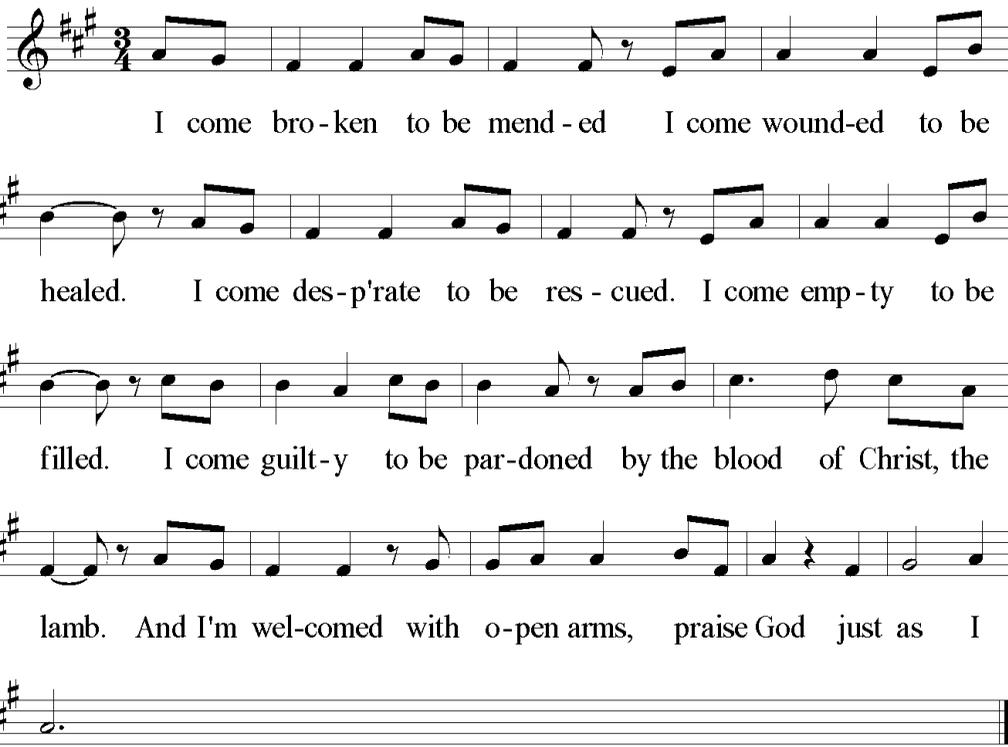
[The assembly sings the following during communion:]

Lamb of God

Travis Cottrell

$\text{♩} = 73$

Vocals



I come bro-ken to be mend-ed I come wound-ed to be
4 healed. I come des-p'rate to be res-cued. I come emp-ty to be
8 filled. I come guilt-y to be par-doned by the blood of Christ, the
12 lamb. And I'm wel-comed with o-pen arms, praise God just as I
17 am.

Verse 1 **The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

Verse 2 **They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

Verse 3 **And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

Verse 4 **This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

Verse 5 **Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

Text: English traditional

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. Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send us forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending of Communion*

Let us pray. Faithful God, you have called us into the communion of Christ. Strengthen us to be bearers of your light to all the ends of the earth, that we may be servants in whom you are glorified. Especially uphold those who will receive this bread and wine, so that they may know that you have taken them by the hand and kept them through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song*

This Little Light of Mine

Hymn 677

Verse 1 **This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Verse 2 **Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Verse 3 **Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Text: African American spiritual

Dismissal*

Called by Christ,

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

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

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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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
Erik Flaten , Director of Music Ministry	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