

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534; Pastor Metzloff (570) 706-1330

First Sunday of Christmas
A Service of Word and Sacrament

December 29th, 2024
9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister: Pastor Paul Metzloff
Guest Musician: Jane Quaintance

9:30

Ushers Charley and Jen Weaver
Reader Jackie Morrissey
A/M Carole Miller
Acolyte Jen Weaver
Altar Guild Becky Schaeffer, Lynn DeAcosta,
Melanie Bechtel, Patty Matijasich
Live streaming Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston,
Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands or kneels as they wish -

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
Amen.

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

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

**Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

Amen!

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 A - men.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glory of Israel, the coming of your son, Jesus, broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eyes to see your Spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to all people, in the way of Jesus. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

LUKE 2:21-40

²¹ When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 292

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

APOSTLES' CREED

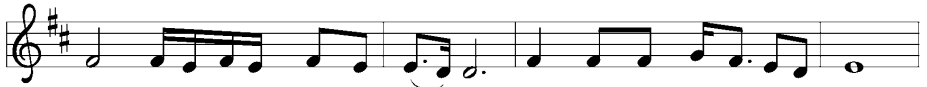
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Asst. Minister: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Petitions conclude with: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Asst. Minister: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and 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 with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,

**from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

Amen!

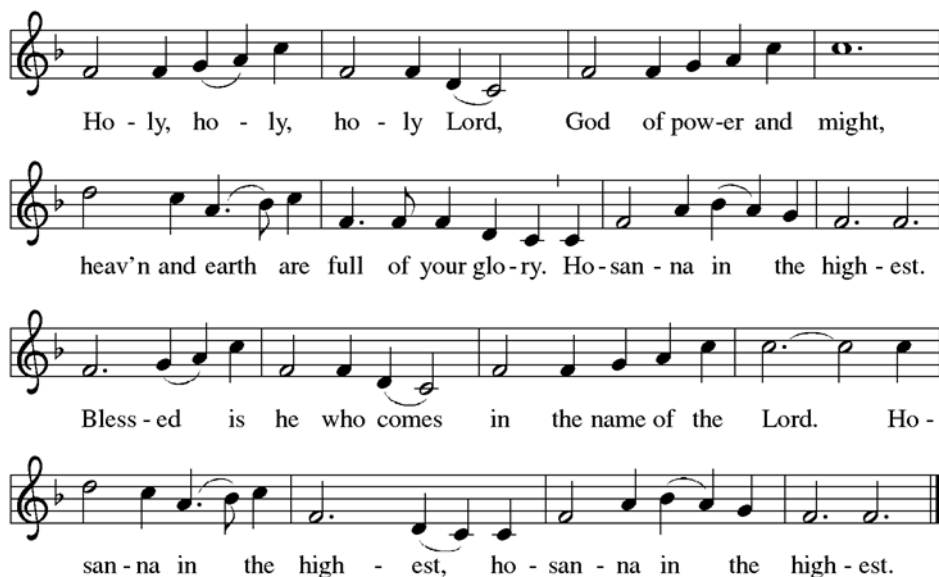
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 . . .



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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Please note that, so as to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. All are welcome to commune.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er, the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,

send us forth to announce your peace,

comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

Amen!

BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

lavish you with grace, illumine your path,

and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen!**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 545

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER LIST

Changes to the Prayer List this week:

Added – none

Removed – Don Inmon

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Millie Castillo, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Cheryl Manella, LaJune McDonough, Linda Sell, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, Ted Wickert, and the family of Jane Farrell

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick, Sandy Bender, Bob Benton, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Michele Boucher, Carole Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr, Immanuel Eberly, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Susan Flicker, Francis, Beth and Stan Gosek, Tim Harner, Lee Hartman, Gino Hinnershitz, John Howard, Evelyn Hunsicker, Deacon Kalbach, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Dana Little, Kathy McCoy, Debbie Mikes, Jean Morgan, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Patty, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Kim Sharp, Shirley, Linda Smith, Mark Smoker, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Steve V., Grace Vetter, Shannon Vetter, Erika Wesch, Brenda Williams, and Parker Youse

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Ushers:	Pat and Kathy Austin	
Reader:	Kathy Austin	Don Smith
A/M:	Karen Montag	
Acolyte:		

Food Pantry Special Needs and Requests for the Month -The food bank needs soup for December- chicken noodle, tomato, and any variety of cream soup. Pet food is always needed.

Scarf Bombing - Calling all knitters and crocheters, we have joined a Scarf Bombing for Berks County. Scarves will be placed around the county with a note saying - if you are cold, take one. We need knit or crochet scarves 11 x 50 inches. Fringe may be added once the 50 inch length is reached. This will be going on for several months. Finished scarves can be handed to Pam Schneeberger during church or the church office. Thank you!

Please Note - WELCA and the Yarn Group will not meet at the end of this month, December 31st. See everyone next year in January!

Beekeeping Group Meeting – as an additional way of caring for creation, and as we have found an appropriate location, a group from the congregation will be establishing a beehive this spring. Join us after the service on today for an initial planning meeting!

Mental Health Ministry – will be meeting between the services (~9:30 am) on Sunday, January 5th to make plans for the year. Please consider being a part of this developing ministry at Reformation - you do not need a medical background to be part of promoting mental health and wellness in our congregation and community! If you can't make the meeting but would like to be part of the group or have any ideas to share, please let Pastor Metzloff know. Thanks!

Reports – if you have a committee or ministry report to be incorporated into the congregation's annual report, please send it to the office or to Pastor Metzloff by December 31st. Thank you!

Help to Undecorate? – We're all enjoying our beautiful Christmas decorations, but soon, what has gone up must come down and get packed away. If you are able and willing to help, please plan to stay after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, January 5th. Many hands make quick work, and lunch will be served. Thanks!

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