

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

www.reformationlutheran.org

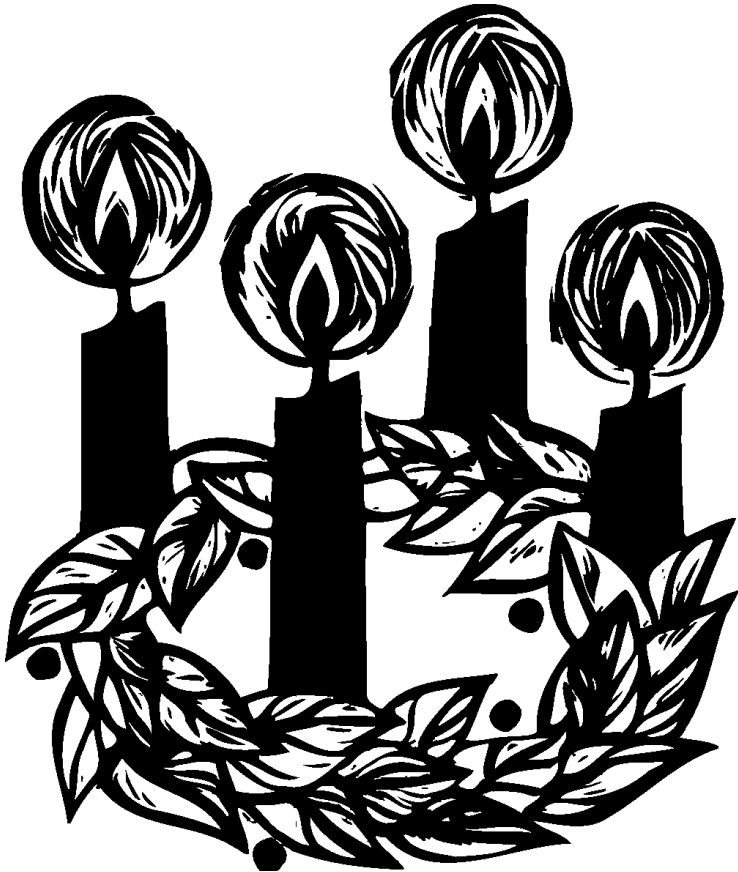
Office (610) 779-0534; Pastor Metzloff (570) 706-1330

4nd Sunday of Advent

A Service of Word and Sacrament

December 21st, 2025

9:30 AM



Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister: Pastor Paul Metzloff

Director of Music: Dr. Heidi Rochlin

9:30

Ushers	Joanne Scattergood and Shirley Harner
Reader	Judy Plica
A/M	John Bayer
Acolyte	Zander Bogust
Altar Guild	Melanie Bechtel and Lisa Phillippi
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Andy Dobroskey, Jared Preston, Stu Johnston, Richter Bogust

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection; you may sit, stand, or kneel.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

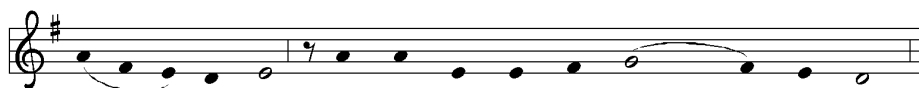
God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 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
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



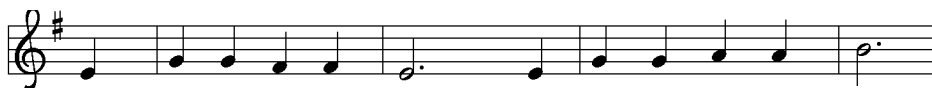
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all time, your Word became flesh and lived among us, and lives among us still. Receive our thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, and for all that you have done through his light, and love, and life. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES – 1, 2, 3, 4

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososǎ, Ososǎ



- O - so - sǎ o - so - sǎ, pyong - hwa - ǔi - im - gǔm*
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǎ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

THE LESSON: JOHN 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"On Christmas Night"

On a quiet night in Bethlehem, the animals in a humble stable are settling in for what they expect to be an ordinary evening. Through the curious, caring, and humorous perspectives of sheep, cows, and a proud donkey, you will experience the wonder of Jesus' birth in a fresh and charming way. As Mary and Joseph arrive seeking shelter, the animals discover that even the simplest place can become holy. Filled with warmth, gentle humor, and heart, this retelling reminds us that the first Christmas was a miracle shared by all—even the animals.

The Cast

Narrator - Garrison

Mary - Faith

Joseph - Rocky

Donkey - Karen

Cows - Reuben, Melanie, James

Sheep - Ellen, Kayla, Lily, Allison, and Hailey

Angels - Maddie, Ryan, and the Reformation Senior Choir

Baby Jesus - Willow

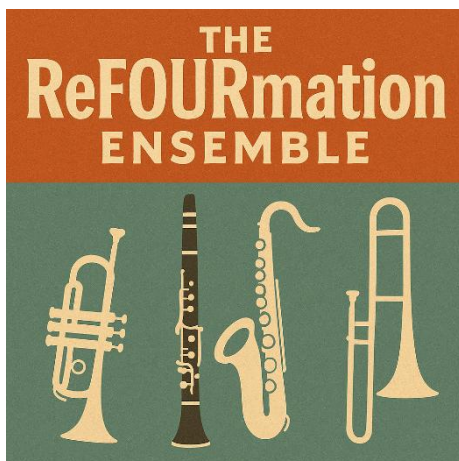
THE ReFOURmation ENSEMBLE:

ROCKY ROCHLIN, TENOR SAXOPHONE

MELANIE KARASEK, CLARINET

REUBEN ROCHLIN, TRUMPET

KAREN ROCHLIN, TROMBONE



My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God

Glory be to God the Father
And glory be to God the Son
Glory be to God the Spirit
Glory be to God

He has been mindful of His servant
He has been mindful of me
I will be blessed forever, forever
I will be blessed by the Lord

God alone is mighty, mighty
Our God alone has done great things
God alone is worthy, worthy
Holy is His name

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: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Asst. Minister: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

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.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing; hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly,
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

TEXT: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

MUSIC: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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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!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
 grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
 and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Lost in the Night



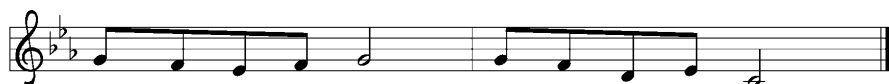
1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake!
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – Linda W.

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Millie Castillo, Linda Centofanti, Harriet Clauser, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Rich Hawk, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Cynthia Smoker-Johnston, Maddie Kemp, Cheryl Manella, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Erica Sweigert, Dee Dee Werner, Connie Whalen, and Herb Zettlemoyr

Friends of Reformation: Kathy Adomshick, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder,, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Carole Coddington, Dale Coddington, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr, Immanuel Eberly, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Lee Hartman, Gino Hinnershitz, John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Marsha Krall, Roger Krause, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Kathy McCoy, Debbie Mikes, Jean Morgan, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Linda W., Grace Vetter, Michael Ware, and Erika Wesch

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

9:30

Ushers:	TBD
Reader:	Judy Plica
A/M:	Judy Plica
Acolyte:	TBD

Please note the open slots on the worship leader lists, and consider participating

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias - We will be purchasing poinsettias this year from Glick's Greenhouse in Oley; they will be in a 6.5" inch pot with 5-7 blooms and can be sponsored/purchased for \$10. Envelopes will be available in the office or narthex. **Today is the last day to purchase!!**

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

worship at 4:30 pm and 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 25th – Christmas Day

worship at 9:30 am

Sunday, December 28th – single service at 9:30 am

Sunday, January 4th – single service at 9:30 am

Reminder - if you have a report for the congregation's annual report, please send it to both the office and pastor at mail@reformationlutheran.org and pastor@reformationlutheran.org by midnight on December 31st. Thanks!

Music Notes (ha):

Preludes:

"In the Bleak Midwinter" - *the Reformation Bell Choir*

"Christmastime is Here" - *the ReFOURmation Ensemble*

Offertory: Choir Anthem

"Every Valley"

Communion (in addition to the communion hymns):

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

- *the ReFOURmation Ensemble*

Postlude: "Joy to the World"

- *the ReFOURmation Ensemble*