

...a **Savior**
has been
born
to you;
he is
Christ
the **Lord.**

Luke 2:11, NIV

Celebration of Christmas

December 24, 2024 † 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Reformation! For 154 years, Reformation has enjoyed a unique location near the nation's Capitol. We celebrate God's presence in everyone, including the great variety of members and friends who call Reformation their church home.

Everyone matters to God. You matter to us. Reformation has long been involved in social justice and helping organizations throughout the D.C. area, including Samaritan Ministry. We have helped Good Neighbors of Capitol Hill to equip 144 apartments for refugees over the past few years.

Reformation runs an "emergency" food pantry, in that we provide a bag of food (and in the colder months, hand-knitted hats and scarves) to DC residents that contains items sufficient to sustain a family of four for two days as they make more permanent connections toward food security. It is open on Mondays and Tuesdays (closed on government holidays) from 9AM-5PM; please bring a government issued ID.

Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have belonged to ReconcilingWorks, a national Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry. We honor the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples upon whose land we live and worship.

If you are new to Reformation and would like more information about our church ministry, a baptism, a wedding, or another interest, please fill out an information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

We all may mask or not, according to our preferences. *Reformation will no longer require masks to be worn in Worship.* Let us all be respectful of others' needs, choices, and boundaries. *If you need a mask, just ask an usher!*

Children are most welcome in worship. The Blue Room, to the left as you entered, is equipped with sound for caregivers. A **professionally staffed nursery** and **restrooms with changing tables** are on the lower level of the St. John's building. Sunday School is open to children **4-12 years old** in our historic **Children's Chapel** on the 2nd floor. **Children's Choir** is from 9:45-10am; **Bible Lessons** from 10-10:45am. All children receive an age appropriate Bible to take home!

An all-gender/handicapped accessible restroom is on the sanctuary level, on the right front of the sanctuary near the elevator.

Reformation is in partnership with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** (www.elca.org), one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. It has 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region as well as 27 Lutheran Colleges and Universities, 7 Seminaries, 400 worldwide missionaries, hundreds of Lutheran camps and campus ministries, one of the largest non-profit social service networks in the U.S., and Lutheran World Relief.

☪ ☪ ☪ **GATHERING** ☪ ☪ ☪

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Choral Prelude

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi

1. Gloria in excelsis Deo
2. Et in terra pax
3. Laudamus te (Sopranos I and II)
4. Gratias agimus tibi (Chorus)
5. Propter magnam gloria (Chorus)
6. Domine Deus (Soprano)
7. Domine, Fili unigenite (Chorus)
8. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei (Alto, Chorus)
9. Qui tollis peccata mundi (Chorus)
10. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris (Mezzo Soprano)
11. Quoniam tu solus sanctus (Chorus)
12. Cum Sancto Spiritu (Chorus)

Gabrielle Levy, soprano
Alexa Newlin, mezzo-soprano

Welcome

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Christmas Dialogue and Greeting

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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.

After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

Please be seated. All people sing the Hymn of Praise.

☪ ☪ ☪ **WORD** ☪ ☪ ☪

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as
with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Sung by choir

Music by Paul Leavitt

¹O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-55

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please rise in body and/or spirit to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all creation.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are experiencing hunger, loneliness, or homelessness.

Blessed are you, Child of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Child of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another by saying "Peace be with you." Please be seated during the announcements and musical offering.

Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

We reflect on the gifts we have, and the gifts we can offer to the Lord: our selves, our time, and our possessions. If you would like to make a monetary offering to the work and ministry of Reformation, please place it in the offering plate as it comes by, or, to do so by phone/online, turn to page 16. All gifts are beautiful to God!

Chorus: "Tollite hostias," for mixed chorus, organ and strings

Saint-Saens

Latin:

Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto eius.

Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit.

Translation:

Bring forth your offerings, and adore the Lord, your God, and worship Him in His Holy place.

Rejoice in heaven, exult all ye peoples, for the Lord now comes in glory. Alleluia.

Offering Song

Love Has Come

ELW 292

Please rise in body or spirit and sing as the gifts are brought forward.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God, **your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

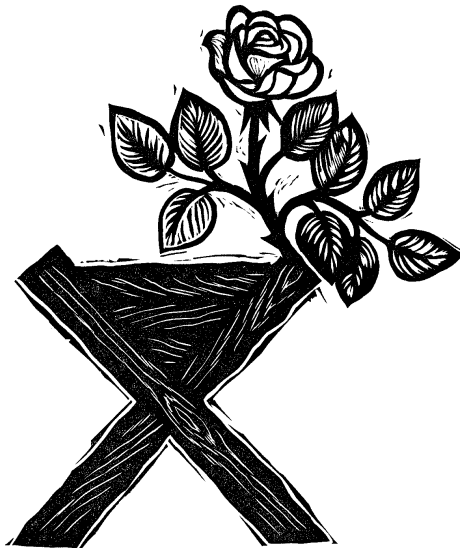
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279



Candle Lighting

The ministers light a candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the ministers candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. Please dip your unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor's lit candle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. Candles will remain lit until after the blessing.

The lights are dimmed. Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Reading

John 1:1-5,14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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.

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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

Join in singing the first verse in German, then all the English verses.

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

🕊️ 🕊️ 🕊️ **SENDING** 🕊️ 🕊️ 🕊️

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace.
Amen.

The lights are brightened.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Sending Forth

Glory to God in the highest. **Peace to God's people on earth.**
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata

C.M. Widor

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

Your Offering Empowers Our Ministry

Thank you! Supported by your time, your talents, and your financial support, Lutheran Church of the Reformation continues its mission to gather, welcome and nurture a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

Regular donations can be set up at reformationdc.org/give or by reaching out to Julie Miller, our Director of Facilities and Operations, at 202-543-4200 or operations@ReformationDC.org.

Give today, simply and quickly:

Credit/Debit/Digital Wallet



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PRAYER LIST

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Timothy Allmond, Jr. (12/26); Larson Grant, Karin Haxton, Deborah Mennuti, & Frederic Robb (12/28); Axel Euken (12/30).

WE PRAY FOR ...

The people of Sudan, Congo, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Ethiopia.

The families, friends, and communities affected by gun violence.

Elder and homebound congregation members.

The families, friends, and communities affected by natural disasters.

Those who are immunocompromised, those whose lives are affected by Long COVID, and anyone who is suffering physically or mentally amidst the ongoing pandemic.

Those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.

The migrants who are bused throughout the country.

Those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and everyone helping in the aftermath.

Madge Selinsky, as she heals from a fall.

Kirk, Jane, Thor and Calvin Tobler Cunningham, for comfort and healing as they mourn the death of Richard Cunningham, who died in late November.

Matt Aviles and his family, particularly Matt's mom Pattie Aviles, as they mourn the death of David Birch, his uncle.

Tim Teets, as he navigates health challenges.

Roger Dahlin, as his health recovers.

Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.

The Anacostia River.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service:

Deborah, Jonathan, and Sophia Mennuti, Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Jon Jones, Kim Loewecke, Matt Oskam, Melinda Manning, and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for:

Angela Braxton, Bill Scott, Carolyn Walker, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Eva Steege and her family, Gloria Wolf, Helen Stauderman, Leah Jones, Madge Selinsky, Marvin Jones, Ron Rhine, Thomas Winter, and Tim Allmond.

Please email your prayer requests to miller@ReformationDC.org.



The poinsettias in the chancel are given to the glory of God!

Names are listed alphabetically by honoree's last name.

In memory of Yat Lai Au by Thomas Au.

In honor of Sarah Aviles by Matt Aviles.

In memory of Susan Blackman by Paul Blackman.

In memory of James O. Dahlgren by Michael Henderson.

In memory of Grandpa Evans by Katie Evans.

In memory of Barney and Lilian Finkel by Dina Finkel.

In memory of Grandpa Gibson by Katie Evans.

In memory of Alice S. Henderson by Michael Henderson.

In memory of David J. Henderson by Michael Henderson.

In memory of F.R. and Carolyn Kelly by Aryn Kelly.

In memory of Corliss F. King II by Kay and Larry King.

In memory of Verna E. (Betty) King by Kay and Larry King.

In memory of Clinton (Buzz) Lilyquist by Candace Lilyquist.

In honor of Marilyn (Welk) Lilyquist by Candace Lilyquist.

In memory of Walter and Freda (Perlenfein) Lilyquist by Candace Lilyquist.

In memory of Aune and Ed Manty by Elizabeth Tuckermanty.

In honor of Samantha Meraw by Matt Aviles.

In honor of Annika Sabine by Sara Daub.

In memory of Dr. Ralph C. Schultz by Matt Cook.

In honor of Thomas and Dina Sewell by Dina Finkel.

In memory of Al Swingle by Stephanie and Matt Fouse.

In memory of Al Swingle by Wayne and Grace Krumwiede.

In honor of Nancy Swingle by Stephanie and Matt Fouse.

In memory of Robert and Mary Rose Tucker by Elizabeth Tuckermanty.

In honor of the Vandiver family by Elizabeth Tuckermanty.

In memory of Faith Wasicek by Thomas Au.

In memory of John and Estelle (Lien) Welk by Candace Lilyquist.

In memory of Bill and Martha Whaley by Aryn Kelly.



May God bless you with the courage of Mary
and the graciousness of Joseph this
Christmas season.

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders...

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kevin Vandiver

Vicar: Jayme Kokkonen

Cantors: Gabbi Levy, Alexa Newlin, Ruslan Bondar, JP Barringer

Reader: Katherine Nelson, Evan Christopher

Greeter/Usher: Stephanie and Matt Fouse

Stream Team: Andy Weaver

Communion Assistants: Philip Moeller



If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 202-543-4200, ext. 103. You may also email Pastor Kevin at vandiver@reformationdc.org.

Senior Pastor	The Rev. Kevin Vandiver, Ph.D.	vandiver@ReformationDC.org
Vicar	Jayme Kokkonen	jaymekokkonen@gmail.com
Director of Music & Arts	Paul Leavitt	pdleavitt0918@gmail.com
Director of Facilities & Operations	Julie Miller	operations@ReformationDC.org
Church Administrator	Julie Miller	miller@ReformationDC.org
Community Host	Emmanuel Kabasaala	space@ReformationDC.org

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| <b>Secretary:</b> Jessica Snowden | <b>Financial Secretary:</b> Suzanne Hazard |                               |



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