

Celebration of Christmas

SAVIOR  
OF THE WORLD

December 24, 2024 ✝ 4:00 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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.*

**Prelude**

Elijah Belbed, saxophone  
Gabbi Levy, soprano

**Call to Worship**

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.*

The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who have walked in gloom have seen a great light;

**Those who lived in a land of deep gloom, on them has the light shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

**This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.**

# Gathering Hymn

## *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

verse 1



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:

### *Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## Greeting

The grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

*After a brief silence for our personal prayers, the 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Christmas Gospel I

Luke 2:1-4

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

# Hymn

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

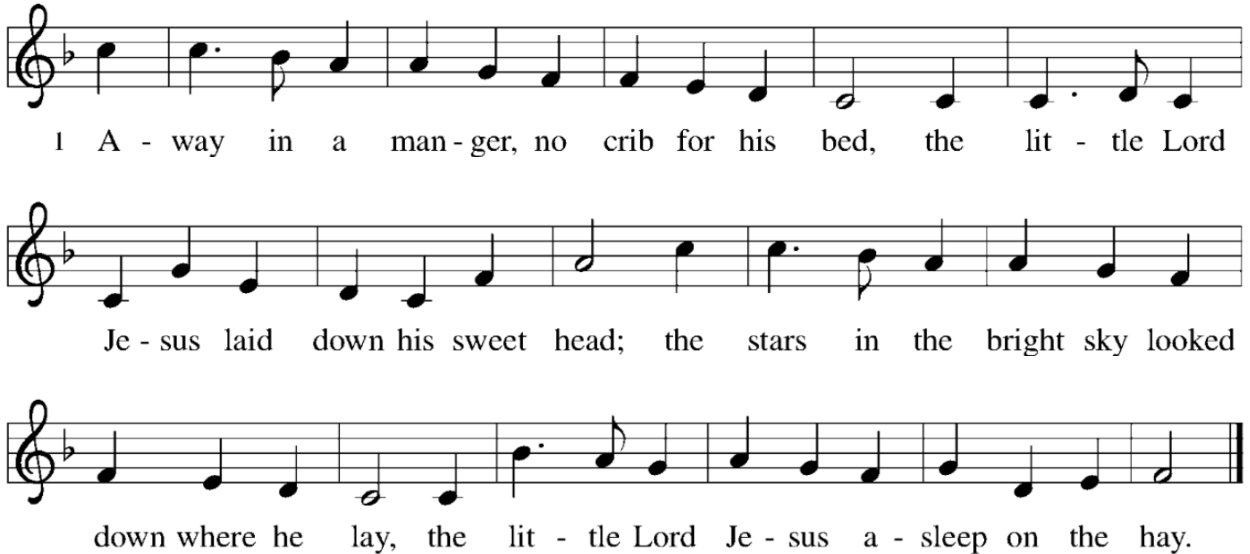
## Christmas Gospel II

Luke 2:5-7

<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

# Hymn

## *Away in a Manger*



The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Away in a Manger'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

i A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## Christmas Gospel III

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

*Please rise in body and/or spirit for our next songs, prayers, and sharing of the peace.*

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.*

# Hymn

## *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

### *Refrain*



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol



## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

## Sharing of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of Christ's peace, forgiveness, freedom, and reconciliation and say "Peace be with you" or similar words. As you have finished sharing the peace, **you may be seated** for short announcements and our 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!*

*O Holy Night*

Elijah Belbed, Saxophone  
Gabbi Levy, soprano

Text: Placide Cappeau  
Music: Adolphe Adam

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

## What Child Is This?



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898  
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

*Please remain seated until after our next hymn.*

## 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.**

## Christmas Gospel IV

Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Hymn

### *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

# Candle Lighting

As the prayer concludes, we will begin to dim the lights and light the candles before the Hymn, *Silent Night*. 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.

## Silent Night, Holy Night



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,



Hold - er 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

✠ ✠ ✠ **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.**

*Candles may be extinguished as the lights brighten.*

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.*

## Sending Hymn

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## **Sending Forth**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Elijah Belbed, saxophone

**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](http://reformationdc.org/give) or by reaching out to Julie Miller, our Director of Facilities and Operations, at 202-543-4200 or [operations@ReformationDC.org](mailto:operations@ReformationDC.org).

## **Give today, simply and quickly:**

### **Credit/Debit/Digital Wallet**



### **ACH/Recurring**





## 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](mailto: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 honor of Cheryl and Randy Hillman by Mike Thompson and Pete Hillman.

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 Claire and Roger Thompson by Mike Thompson and Pete Hillman.

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 (Soloist), Alexa Newlin, Ruslan Bondar, JP Barringer

**Saxophonist:** Elijah Belbed

**Reader:** Karen, Parry, and Skye Carlson

**Stream Team:** Emmett Antonen



*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](mailto:vandiver@reformationdc.org).*

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**President:** Mike Thompson

**Vice President:** Evan Schrage

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