



Lutheran Church *of the* REFORMATION

3rd Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion

December 15th, 2024

11 a.m.



212 East Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20003

www.ReformationDC.org

Phone: 202-543-4200 † Email: office@ReformationDC.org

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Mission Statement: Embraced by God's love, Lutheran Church of the Reformation gathers, welcomes, and nurtures a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

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.

Prelude

What Child Is This?

Sam Solverson, saxophone

Welcome

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

Please rise in body and/or spirit. Refer to the red hymnal in the pew in front of you. Note that hymns are located in the back 2/3rds of the hymnal (the hymn number is not the page number). Large print hymns are available in the back or online at reformationdc.org/worshiponline.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the third Advent candle, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

The candle is lit as we sing the following hymn from the hymnal: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257, verses 1, 2, and 5).

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Confession

*Here we confess our individual and mutual sin before a gracious and forgiving God.
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Forgiveness

We hear God's forgiveness pronounced over us.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Greeting

These words are a mutual greeting which brings us together into union with our heavenly God.

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

The Prayer of the Day is typically a prayer focused around the texts appointed for the day and is led by a presiding minister.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

🕊️ 🕊️ 🕊️ **WORD** 🕊️ 🕊️ 🕊️

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

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
- 18 as on a day of festival.”
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- 19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- ³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is
exalted.
- ⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

- ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Refrain)

ELW 257

Please rise in body and/or spirit, as we greet the living Word, Jesus Christ, with praise.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Christmas Pageant

(See insert)

Silence for Reflection

We listen and meditate on the Word of God. We hold silence for the Spirit to speak.

Following the sermon, please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God together by singing the Hymn of the Day.

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Apostle's Creed

The text of the Apostles' Creed was developed in southern Gaul around the 5th century from a lineage of professions of faith dating back to the 1st century A.D. It has been confessed by the Universal Church for centuries.

**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 universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

An assisting minister invites the congregation into prayer for the church, the world, and all those according to their needs.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who welcomes, you love all who experience exclusion due to sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, race, nationality, ethnicity, or any other distinction people would make. Enable us to confront the intersection of oppression in our society, work for inclusion, and make all your lambs welcome in your church universal. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The Peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another by saying "Peace be with you."

Ministry Announcements

☪ ☪ ☪ MEAL ☪ ☪ ☪

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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 17. All gifts are beautiful to God!

Joyful, Joyful

Arr. Roger Emerson, Mervyn Warren

Joyful, Joyful, Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light
Fill us with the light
Oh, fill us with the light of day

Come and join the chorus
The mighty, mighty chorus
Which the morning stars begun
The Father of love is reigning over us
By the way
What have you done for Him lately?
Ooh, ooh, ooh yeah
What have you done for Him lately?
He watches over everything
So we sing

Doxology

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.**

The Great Thanksgiving

This portion of the liturgy comes to us, modified yet recognizable, from the 3rd century.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

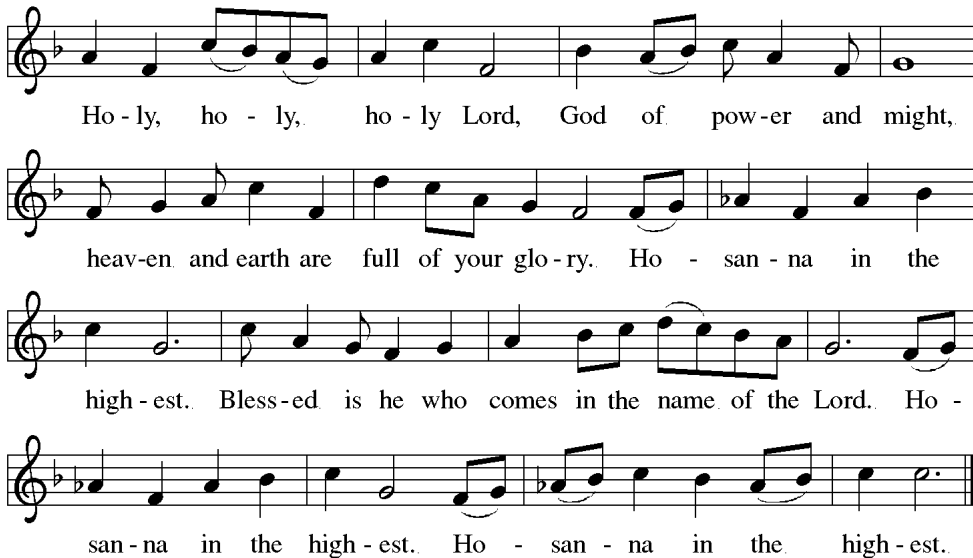
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

All people join the angels' song.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

Words of Institution

This is the portion of a Christian Communion service based on the words of Mark 14:22-24 and used as the grounds from Jesus Christ for the continued celebration of the Eucharist.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

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

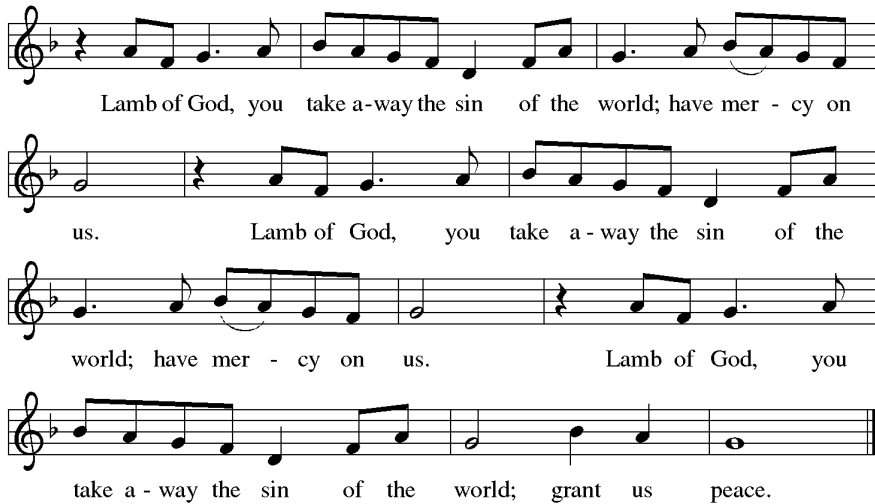
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

We trust that God who raised Jesus from the dead to be alive with us now also joins us together in this moment of Holy Communion. Whether we are in the sanctuary or in our homes, the Holy Spirit comes and brings Christ's presence in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice when we share this meal together. You are joined to the body of Christ—the church—through this holy meal.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

In Thee is Gladness (See hymn next page)

ELW 867

Lost in the Night (See hymn pg.15)

ELW 243

He Came Down

ELW 253

ELW 867 In Thee is Gladness

Johann Lindemann tr. Catherine Winkworth

Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi

1. In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my heart.
2. Je - sus is ours! We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or death.

5
By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the true re - deem er art.
He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; He can change them with a breath.

9
Our soul thou wak - est; Our bonds thou break - est Who trusts thee sure - ly
Where - fore the sto - ry tell of his glo - ry with heart and voic - es;

12
has built se - cure - ly and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
all heav'n re - joic - es in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

15
Our hearts are pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
We shout for glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him

18
to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Arr. Paul Leavitt

ELW 243 Lost in the Night

Nordic Hymn tr. Olav Lee (1859-1943)

Finnish folk tune

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;

3
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,

5
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.

7
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!

Arr. Paul Leavitt

Prayer after Communion

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Charge to the People

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. May God make God's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway (See below)

ELW 264

Text by Frans Mikael Franzen

Swedish folk tune
Arranged by Paul Leavitt

Jazz waltz in 1 ♩ = 60



Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near! Let
God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king! Palm
Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king! Your
His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove! His



ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the
branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise
king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring. All lands will
rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth and love. So let your



King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry: Ho - san - na
will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing;
praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Sending Forth

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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:

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ACH/Recurring



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Lutheran Church of the
REFORMATION



Set every peak and valley.

Humming with the Word

the Lord is coming!
(ELW248)

Advent Services

Sunday, December 1st, 8th & 22nd: 8:30 & 11 AM

Wednesday, December 4th & 11th: 7:30 PM (midweek service)

Sunday, December 15th: 11 AM (one service / Advent Pageant)

Christmastide Services

Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve: 4 PM (family service)

6:30 PM (musical prelude), 7 PM ("traditional" service)

Sunday, December 29th: 11 AM (one service)

ReformationDC.org

✿ Please note that childcare will be provided for children ages birth - 4 years old at the 7pm Christmas Eve service beginning at 6:15pm.

This Week at Reformation

Today	11am	Worship (Space for Grace and Christmas Pageant)
	3pm	DC's Different Drummers Concert
Tuesday	7pm	Reformation Book Club Meeting
Wednesday		Staff Meeting
Thursday	6pm	Contemplation and the Gospel
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:30am & 11am	Worship

Looking Ahead

- Thurs. 12/26 No Choir Rehearsal
- Sun. 12/29 (One Service @ 11am) Worship

Christmas Eve and Christmastide Services

- ✿ Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24th)
 - 4pm: Family Service
 - 6:30pm: Christmas Eve Chorale Prelude (Childcare provided)
 - 7pm: Worship with Communion
- ✿ Christmas Day (Wednesday, December 25th): No services
- ✿ Sunday, December 29th: 11am Service only
- ✿ Sunday, January 5th: 11am Service only

PRAYER LIST

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Sophia Harkins (12/15); Jennifer Braaten (12/16); Aaron Morrison (12/18); Emmanuel Kabasaala (12/19); Richard Cassem (12/20); Jonathan Mennuti (12/21).

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 family and friends of Al Swingle, as they celebrate his life.

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

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 Patti Aviles, as they mourn the death of David Birch, his uncle.

Parry Carlson's family, as they mourn the death of John Peter Carlson, who died on November 29th from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

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.

REFORMATION HAPPENINGS

Have an announcement for the Weekly Word? Please submit to miller@reformationdc.org by Tuesday at midnight each week.

Reformation Book Club December Meeting! Reformation Book Club will meet *December 17 at 7:00 on Zoom*. We will be selecting our books for 2025. Join our google group, reformationbookclub@googlegroups.com for meeting information and the link to the meeting.

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Today is the Last Day to order your poinsettia for the Sanctuary—even though you see them today (: Give a gift of poinsettias at the church in Memory or Honor of a dear friend or family member. Your name and the person's name will be included on a special page in the Christmas bulletin. Complete the Poinsettia Google Form using the link in the Weekly Word or send an email to miller@ReformationDC.org, tell us the names of your loved one, and whether the poinsettia is given in memory of or in honor of someone. (If you already submitted the Google form and wish to make additional gifts, please find the email and make the necessary edits). Make your donation online at reformationdc.org/give (Poinsettias are \$20 each) or send your check (note: Poinsettia) to Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St. NE, Washington, DC 20003. You can also fill out an envelope and write a check to put in the offering plate. You are welcome to take poinsettias home on December 29th or January 5th. ***Please place your order (or email Julie) no later than Sunday, December 15th to ensure the information can be listed in the Poinsettia section of the bulletin.***

Childcare Available at 7pm Christmas Eve Service. For those interested, the Nursery will be open to children 4 years and younger beginning at 6:15pm in time for the 6:30pm prelude and the 7pm service.

Show Your Appreciation for Pastor Kevin. As we approach the end of the year, the Reformation Church Council warmly invites you to join us in expressing gratitude for Pastor Kevin's incredible dedication and talents. We are collecting donations of any amount to present him with a financial gift as a token of our heartfelt appreciation for his steadfast efforts throughout the year. To contribute, you can: Give online using the link in the Weekly Word and click the "Pastor Love Gift" tile; Or include a check in the offering plate, with "Pastor Love Gift" in the check Memo.

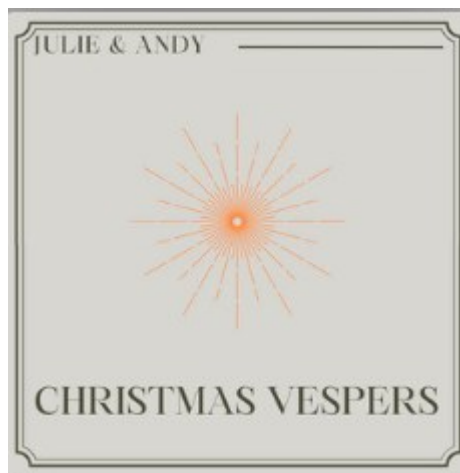
Knitting Together. Brrr - it's getting colder in time for Christmas. If you like to knit or crochet, beginner or expert, consider joining in this beautiful project, making scarves and hats for people who are without shelter. Find yarn, needles, and simple patterns in the Fireside Room, especially open for the group between services. Use the link in the WW for more information.

Reformation's Justice Library is here! On Sunday, we celebrated its launch with a fun zine-making workshop. Now, the Justice Library is parked in the Blue Room and is filled with justice-related books and zines for you to explore. Let's use this new resource to keep learning, growing, and acting as a community!

Update from the MAP Survey. Thank you all again for your work and support in making this week a successful start to our campaign. Everybody chipped in, and it was a true team effort. Thank you to everyone who helped compile the list of interviewees, arrange the schedule, serve as hosts, and participate in the interviews. To learn about Pastor Kjellberg's synthesis, see the Weekly Word for a link.

Gifts of Hope. Peace on earth looks like many different things. For some, it's knowing they have access to health care, a safe place to sleep, food for their family, or resources to help find a job. Giving someone peace of mind is a wonderful Christmas present! Learn more at GiftsOfHopeDC.org.

Advent and Christmas Music. Last year, our very own Julie Miller and her husband Andy, the Christmas music enthusiasts that they are, released two albums ("Advent Darkness" and "Christmas Vespers"). They'd dreamed of doing a Christmas album together for about a decade and worked over a year on it. Search for them (band name is "Julie & Andy") on Spotify, Pandora, Amazon Music, or wherever you listen to your music (except Apple Music). Please do all those social media things and help spread the word about the albums to your friends and family!



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Choir Rehearsal is every Thursday at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join! If interested, please email Paul Leavitt at pdleavitt0918@gmail.com.

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Contemplation & the Gospel Group. What is Centering Prayer and how is it practiced? Does praying like Jesus influence how we receive his gospel message? How could holding still equip us for action in the world? These are some of the questions we'll consider through our new Contemplation & the Gospel group. We meet on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm in the Fireside Room for discussion, study, and Centering Prayer. Join anytime—no experience required! Contact Vicar Jayme.

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

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kevin Vandiver

Vicar: Jayme Kokkonen

Altar Care: Jenna Jablonski, Dan O'Brien, and Elizabeth Wirick

Tellers: Suzanne Hazard, Jackie Maddox

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

8:30 am

Greeter/Ushers: Matt and Stephanie Fouse

11:00 am

Reader: Peter Hillman

Greeter/Usher: Kiri Nicholson, Andre Robb, Sara Daub

Stream Team: Kirsten, Corey, and Ella Petree

Communion Assistants: Philip Moeller, Candace Lilyquist

Acolyte: Emile Sigrist

Fellowship: Kim Benoit

Last Sunday's Attendance

In person: 138

Online Views: 170



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
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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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