



## **Reformed Presbyterian Church**

**9:30 am Worship Service**

**December 11, 2022**

**Reformed Presbyterian Church** exists to be a stream of God's refreshing grace for people from all walks of life.

**TODAY'S SPEAKER:** Dr. Michael Rogers, Moderator of Session  
Worship Leader: Josiah Weaver, Ruling Elder  
Organist: Courtney Abbott-Fogie  
Choir Director: Rachel Klein

### **PRELUDES**

*In the Bleak Midwinter/ C. Rossetti*

*Saw You Never in the Twilight, (Hymn 228)/ C. Alexander*

□ A time of quiet preparation

Rachel Vos, violin

### **WORDS OF GREETING**

#### **WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD

Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7 (ESV)

**Leader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People:** **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.**

**Leader:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**People: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom,**

**People: To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

**Unison: *The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

IN PRAYER

**WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST**

THE ADVENT CANDLE:

The Shepherds' Candle  
Camille and Nick Klein

HYMN OF RESPONSE 208

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

**Leader: Christian, what do you believe?**

**People: I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the  
dead. He ascended into heaven and is  
seated at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty. From there 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**

**\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*How Great Our Joy  
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Leader: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:4-8 (ESV)  
*Worship the King*

**WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP  
(4 years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade)  
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING  
WELCOME TO VISITORS

**WE SEEK GOD'S FACE**

Prayers of God's People

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY

*Come, Emmanuel/ P. Choplin*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

SERMON

***God in the Straw***  
Dr. Michael Rogers

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE 213

*What Child Is This*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR  
(4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

*The Advent Chorale/ F. Mendelssohn*

**TODAY'S SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Michael Rogers** presently serves us as Moderator of Session. He retired in 2019 from 45 years of ministry, including 25 years as senior pastor at Westminster PCA in Lancaster. Dr. Rogers and his wife, Carol, are Lititz residents. They have four children and sixteen grandchildren. He is the author of *What Happens After I Die?* and *The Covenant of Grace and Baptism*.

## Song Lyrics

### 208 O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light:  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb:  
very God, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
late in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### *How Great Our Joy*

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
in Bethlehem a child today.

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall the child lie in a stall,  
this child who shall redeem us all.

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

***God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen***

God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright  
to free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s power and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place  
In Christian love and charity each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas reveals to us God’s grace  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

***Worship the King***

O come to the place  
Where the holy Child is laid  
O come let us see  
The new-born King  
For He is our God  
And greatly to be praised  
Come let us worship the King

Come let us worship the King  
Jesus the Savior is born  
For the Lord will reign  
Over all the earth  
Come let us worship the King  
Jesus the Savior is born  
For the Lord is great  
And greatly to be praised  
Through all the earth  
Let us worship the King

The Savior has come  
Let all the nations sing  
The mountains ring out  
With angelic praise  
The heavens rejoice  
For the earth receives her King  
Come let us worship the King

Come let us worship the King  
Jesus the Savior is born  
For the Lord will reign  
Over all the earth  
Come let us worship the King  
Jesus the Savior is born  
For the Lord is great  
And greatly to be praised  
Through all the earth  
Let us worship the King

**213 *What Child Is This***

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through:  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise, the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

*What Child Is This*, Words adapted by William C. Dix, Music an English melody © Public Domain CCLI  
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## Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.<sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,<sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.