



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 14, 2025
9:30 am Worship Service

Multiplying disciples one life at a time.

Today's Speaker: Dr. David Kieffer, Senior Pastor

Worship Leader: Rusty Rutter, Ruling Elder

Organist: Courtney Brooke

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?/ arr. R. Bonam
Katherine Daly and Rachel Klein, flutes

WORDS OF GREETING

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Luke 1:68-72 (ESV)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited
and redeemed his people.

People: **He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the
house of his servant David,**

Leader: As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets
from of old, that we should be saved from our
enemies

**People: To show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

IN PRAYER

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 195 *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY David McFarland, reader

***WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

**People: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible
and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten
Son of God, begotten of his Father before all
worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God
of very God; begotten, not made, being of one
substance with the Father, by whom all things
were made; who for us and for our salvation,
came down from heaven, and was incarnate by
the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made
man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third
day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father; and he shall come
again, with glory, to judge both the living and the
dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and
giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son; who with the Father and the Son
together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by
the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic¹
and apostolic church; we acknowledge one
baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for
the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

¹meaning *universal*

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS *Hark the Herald Angels Sing/ King of Heaven
Worship the King
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)*

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY

Advent Canticale/ arr. M. Shepperd

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (ages 4–6 years old)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-11 (ESV)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they

rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

SERMON

Fear & Joy

Advent series: ***God Weaves in Grace***

Dr. David Kieffer

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **198**, vs 1-4 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

***WORDS OF PEACE**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Song Lyrics

195 *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

Joy to the world, The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come, Words by Isaac Watts, Music by George Frederick Handel, arr. by Lowell Mason
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Hark, the Herald Angels Sing/ King of Heaven

Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace, Hail the Son of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King

King of Heaven come down, King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come
King of Heaven rise up
Who can stand against us, You are strong to save
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King the newborn King

King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come
King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day
King of Heaven come

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

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray:
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The baby awakes
The dawn of salvation beginning to break
I love Thee Lord Jesus,
oh gift from above
The King of the heavens forever with us

I worship You Jesus
For all of my days
The highest of praises
Be unto Your Name
My God and my Savior
My king and my friend
For Yours is the glory forever, amen
For Yours is the glory forever, amen

Away in a Manger (Forever Amen), words and music by J. Murray | J. Smith | P. Wickham, © 2019 Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), CCLI License # 79597

198 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vss. 1-4)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.