



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 15, 2024
9:30 am Worship Service

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

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

Worship Leader: Jason Rutter, Ruling Elder

Organist: Courtney Brooke

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

PRELUDE

Kathleen Golias, piano

WORDS OF GREETING

WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Ed & Kathy Martin

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Matthew 11:11-15 (ESV)

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered

violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

IN PRAYER

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

***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 Fa-
ther; 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 catholic
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.**

***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)*

WELCOME TO ALL

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
(ages 4–6 years old)
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY
HYMNAL CHOIR *All My Heart this Night Rejoices* (Hymn 217)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:19-28 (ESV)

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

SERMON

Jesus as the Lord of All
Advent series: *When God Came Near*
Dr. David Kieffer

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **198** *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

Postlude on "In Dulci Jubilo"/ G. Martin

When God Came Near

Advent series

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 12/1/2024 | Jesus as the Logos | John 1:1-3,14-18 |
| 12/8/2024 | Jesus as the Light | John 1:4-13 |
| 12/15/2024 | Jesus as the Lord | John 1:19-28 |
| 12/22/2024 | Jesus as the Lamb | John 1:29-34 |

Hymn 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 ©Public Domain CCLI License # 79597

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 Heave 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 off 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*

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.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.