



Reformed Presbyterian Church

9:30 am Worship Service

December 17, 2023

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

Today's speaker: Dr. Tim Witmer, Interim Pastor

Worship Leader: Josiah Weaver, Ruling Elder

Organist: Courtney Brooke

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

PRELUDE

The Shepherd's Song/ arr. D. Hustad
Angels We Have Heard on High/ arr. K. Varner

WORDS OF GREETING

WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE ADVENT CANDLE:

The Shepherd's Candle

Carson & Faith Snavelly

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Isaiah 52:7-10 (ESV)

Leader: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,

People: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Leader: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

People: Glory To God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

IN PRAYER

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 200

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

***WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Leader: The humble shepherds were told to “go and see” and they went and saw. The simple faith and direct obedience of the shepherds often puts us to shame. Let us pause and thank God for the gift of faith and confess our reluctance to obey.

People: Merciful Savior, thank you for coming into the world to save sinner like us. Please forgive us for failing to have faith when you say “believe” and for failing to go when you say “go.” Thank you for your patience with us for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Leader: Our Savior was given the name “Jesus” because his mission was to save us from our sins. Thanks be to God that, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven
Worship the King
O Come Let Us Adore Him*

CHORAL PRESENTATION

Children & Adult Choirs

For Unto Us/ J. R. Dennis

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

(4 years old to 1st grade)

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

WELCOME TO VISITORS

MISSION MOMENT

Jake & Sarah Grasser

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ CHORAL OFFERTORY

Et in Terra Pax (And on Earth, Peace)/ J. Purifoy

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

SERMON

The Angels' Song: Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Advent series: The First Christmas Carols

Dr. Tim Witmer

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **215**

While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

*WORDS OF PEACE

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hour (4 years through 5th grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

He is Born, the Infant King/ arr. R. Hudson

Song Lyrics

200 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav'n's all-gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies
they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

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

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

For You alone are worthy
For You alone are worthy
For You alone are worthy
Christ the Lord

We'll give You all the glory
We'll give You all the glory
We'll give You all the glory
Christ the Lord

215 *While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

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 heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n 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 heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n 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 heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n 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 heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds

told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.