



## **Reformed Presbyterian Church**

**7:00 pm Worship Service**

**December 24, 2023**

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

**TONIGHT'S SPEAKER:** Dr. David Kieffer, Senior Pastor

Organist: Courtney Brooke

Choir Director: Rachel Klein

### **PRELUDE**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence/* arr. E. Lorenz

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear/* arr. K. Ford

*What Child is This/* arr. A. Fedak

*While By My Sheep (Joy, Joy, Joy!)/* arr. D. Hustad

*Angels from the Realms of Glory/* arr. F. Bock

*Joy to the World/* arr. A. Fedak

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*HYMN 208**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

### **WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST** Luke 1:1-4 (ESV)

The Christ Candle

Ray & Shirley Weigand

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us,<sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,<sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having

followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *Song of the Shepherds/ L. Larson*

*Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!*

*Run, see the baby lying in a manger.*

*Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem!*

*Born today is Christ the Lord!*

*Glory to God! Hear the shepherds singing*

*Glory to God! The angels' song still ringing!*

*Glory to God! All heav'n and earth reply!*

*Glory to God! The King is born tonight!*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:26-28 (ESV)

Herb Noack, Reader

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*A Child is Born/ B. Harlan*

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is giv'n,  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you that ye shall find a babe  
wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM/ HYMN**

*Hail the Day of Christ's Appearing/ C. Curry*

*Hail the day of Christ's appearing!*

*Hail the coming of our King!*

*"To our God be highest glory!" Join and with the angels sing!*

*Though disguised as but an infant,  
who can fathom God's first breath?*

*Christ is come to ransom sinners,  
come to conquer sin and death!*

*See our God lie in a manger, King of kings in cattle stall.*

*Could this tiny, helpless baby be the One to save us all?*

*Though disguised as but an infant, all the pow'rs of darkness fear,  
For they see a new Light shining, our Redeemer, Christ is here!*

\*Congregation stand and join choir

**Hail the day of Christ's appearing! Hail the coming of our King!  
"To our God be highest glory!" We now with the angels sing!  
'Though He came as but an infant,  
one day He shall come on high.  
Hail the day when we shall meet Him at life's end or in the sky!**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7 (ESV)  
Cecilia Rutter, Reader

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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.

### CHORAL ANTHEM/ OFFERTORY *Fall on Your Knees/ P. Choplin*

*Come, see the Child, He is here by the fire,  
silently come, draw near the manger side.  
Look in His face and see the world's salvation,  
and feel the holy peace, fall on your knees.*

*Open your eyes, now the holy star is rising,  
rays of light will shine to touch your soul.  
Open your heart to the glory and the wonder.  
Feel the holy peace, fall on your knees.*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.  
O night divine, night divine, O night when Christ was born!*

*Come now, and fall on your knees as you worship in His presence.  
Thanks be to God, you have found the holy Child.  
Blessed are all who have seen the Lord's salvation.  
Come and lift your voice.  
Let your heart rejoice and praise the Prince of peace.  
Fall on your knees.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)  
Vicky Ruckert, Reader

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is  
pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> 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.”

<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## \*HYMN 203

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

## CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Dr. David Kieffer

## CANDLELIGHTING

*Silent Night*

## \*HYMN 195

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices (Hymn 217)/ arr. M. McConnell*

## **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.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Words attr. To John Francis Wade, Trad. by Frederick Oakeley, Music from  
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi* ©Public Domain CCLI License # 79597

### ***203 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing***

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n 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 new-born King!"

**210 *Silent Night! Holy Night!***

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia:  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light:  
With the angels let us sing  
alleluia to our King:  
Christ, the Savior is born!  
Christ, the Savior is born!

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*, Words by Joseph Mohr, Music by Franz Gruber ©Public Domain CCLI License #79597

**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  
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