



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 29, 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: Josiah Weaver, Ruling Elder

Worship Leader: Phil Weaver, Ruling Elder

Guest Pianist: Janelle Labs

PRELUDE

Joseph's Lullaby/ arr. M. Bober

We Three Kings/ arr. M. Hayes

Laura Johnson, piano

WORDS OF GREETING

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Isaiah 53:3-5 (ESV)

He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

IN PRAYER

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***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 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

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
The First Noel*

WELCOME TO ALL

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD’S FACE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

Christmastime with Angels We Have Heard on High/ arr. L. Larson
Janelle Labs, piano

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-18 (ESV)

2 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to

return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

SERMON

Sin, Sorrow and the Savior
Josiah Weaver, Ruling Elder

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **194** (omit vs. 2)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn Lyrics

196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news,
glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing,
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;

By his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Words by St 1.4 Charles Wesley, 2-3 by Mark E. Hunt, Music by Rowland
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Go Tell It On the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn!

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

Go Tell It On The Mountain, An Old Negro Spiritual, Stanzas: John W. Work, Jr, CCLI# 79597

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 Saviour 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

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Reader: verses 3-5

6 The first Noel earth and Heaven embraced
As a virgin beheld her newborn babe
From realms on high to a manger on earth
Salvation had dawned in a lowly birth
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

7 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought
and with His blood our life hath bought
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse,
free Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice, Rejoice,
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Words Tr. By John Mason Neale, Music arranged by Thomas Helmore
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