



## Reformed Presbyterian Church

9:30 am Worship Service

December 3, 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: Jason Rutter, Ruling Elder

**PRELUDE**     *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Hymn 208)/ arr. K. Varner  
◊A time of quiet preparation

### WORDS OF GREETING

### WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST

THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Prophecy Candle

Paul & Angie Henderson

### WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Isaiah 40:1-3 (ESV)

Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord;

**People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God**

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,

**People: And every mountain and hill be made low;**

Leader: The uneven ground shall become level,

**People: And the rough places a plain**

Leader: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
People: **And all flesh shall see it together, For the mouth  
of the Lord has spoken.”**

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

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Angels from the Realms of Glory/ Emmanuel  
O Holy Night*

**WELCOME TO ALL**

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING  
WELCOME TO VISITORS

**WE SEEK GOD'S FACE**

Prayer for the PCA

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

*Mary, Did You Know?*  
Barb Witmer, Vocals

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING  
SERMON

Luke 1:26-56 (ESV)  
*Mary's Song: Magnificat*  
Dr. Tim Witmer

**WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

PREPARATION  
THE INVITATION  
THE BREAD AND THE CUP Hymn 648 *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

**WE REMEMBER THOSE IN NEED**

THE LOVE OFFERING/CLOSING HYMN 230

*Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*

\*WORDS OF PEACE Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face  
shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward  
you and give you peace.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on 'Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella' / R. Hudson  
Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella.  
Bring a torch, come hurry and run.  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born!*

## Song 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.

*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 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 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, O Come Emmanuel*, words and music public domain

*Angels from the Realms/ Emmanuel*

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Come have Your way among us, we welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Come have Your way among us, we welcome You here, Lord Jesus*

Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King  
God is with us, even now His love is here.  
Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King  
God is with us, even now His love is here.  
His love is here!

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Come have Your way among us, we welcome You here, Lord Jesus  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel!*

***O Holy Night***

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,  
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Chorus:

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

Truly he taught us to love one another,  
His law is love, and His gospel is peace;  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
and in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
let all within us praise His holy name;

Chorus:

Christ is the Lord,  
oh praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

**648 *My Jesus I Love Thee***

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art thou;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;  
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.



**230 *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor***

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

*Thou Who Wast Rich, beyond All Splendor, Words by Frank Houghton, Music French carol melody, arr. by Charles H.Kitson © Public Domain CCLI License # 79597*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-56 (ESV)

- <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!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
- <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"
- <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.
- <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned  
to her home.