



**REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**December 8, 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:** Josiah Weaver, Ruling Elder

**Organist:** Courtney Brooke

**Choir Director:** Rachel Klein

**PRELUDE**

*Gloria/ trad. French carol*  
*The First Noel/ arr. K. Varner*

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST**

THE ADVENT CANDLE:

The Light of the World  
Austin and Nicole High

**WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD      *Zechariah's prophecy concerning John, his son.*  
Luke 1:76-79 (ESV)

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their

sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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 *Angels We Have Heard on High/ Glory to God  
King of Kings  
All Is Well*

**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

*Celtic Advent Carol/ D. Angerman and M. Barrett*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:4-13 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

<sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

SERMON

***The Light of Men***  
*Advent series: When God Came Near*  
Dr. David Kieffer

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

\*WORDS OF PEACE   **197**                   *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hour (4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE                   *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/* arr. R. Hughes

## 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.

***Angels We Have Heard on High / Glory to God***

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song  
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King  
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on earth There is hope for everyone  
Tell the world That the saving King has come  
And His light is here For all who live in darkness  
And His love is here For all the broken hearted

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Peace on earth There is hope for everyone  
Tell the world That the saving King has come  
And His light is here For all who live in darkness  
And His love is here For all the broken hearted

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Jesus, Messiah, the promise fulfilled  
The hope of the world born for us  
And all who believe Him And all who receive Him  
Are children born of God Are children born of God

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo Glo—ria in excelsis Deo

## **King of Kings**

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light  
'til from heaven You came running There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the law and prophets To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus, for our sake You died

Praise the Father, praise the Son Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, majesty Praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath  
'til that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old Shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the Son Praise the Spirit, three in one  
God of glory, majesty Praise forever to the King of kings  
Praise forever to the King of kings

***All Is Well***

All is well, all is well  
Angels and men rejoice  
For tonight darkness fell  
Into the dawn of love's light  
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well, all is well  
Let there be peace on earth  
Christ is come go and tell  
That He is in the manger  
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well, all is well  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Born is now Emmanuel  
Born is our Lord and Savior  
Sing alleluia sing alleluia  
All is well

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## 197 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;  
all that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain,  
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign;  
For the glory of the LORD now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that His word is never broken.

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*, Words by Johannes Olearius, Tr. By Catherine Winkworth, Music by Louis Bourgeois, arr. by Henry A. Bruinsma ©Public Domain CCLI License # 79597