



**9:30 am Worship Service  
November 28, 2021**

We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning!

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

**Today's Speaker:** Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas, Sr. Pastor  
**Worship Leader:** Rev. Kevin Sheahan, Associate Pastor  
**Organist:** Courtney Abbott-Fogie

**PRELUDES**

*Etude in C Major* /S. Heller  
*Count Your Blessings* /arr. F. Lopez  
Janelle Labs, Piano

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**WE APPROACH GOD**

IN WORD

I Chronicles 29: 10b-13 (NIV)

Leader: Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

People: **Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.**

Leader: Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

People: **In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.**

IN PRAYER

**\*WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 98

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**\*WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

Heidelberg Cat. Q. 1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death

People: **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

**\*WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*Before the Throne of God Above*

*Turn your Eyes*

Leader: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

II Corinthians 4:6-7 (NIV)

*Broken Vessels*

**WELCOME TO ALL**

**WE SEEK GOD'S FACE**

Prayers of God's People

**WE CELEBRATE THE COMING OF CHRIST**

THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Chris, Tashina, Hope, Faith, Justin & Joy Horne

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY RESPONSE **196** vss. 1 & 4

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

SERMON

*Pay Attention to John*

**Advent series: Between Two Advents**

Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

**\*WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **715** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

\*WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

## SONG LYRICS

### *98 Now Thank We All Our God*

Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
And free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
The Son and Him who reigns  
with Them in highest heaven;  
The one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

***Before the Throne of God Above***

Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong and perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there,  
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The Risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased with His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

*Before the Throne*, words and music by Charite Lees Bancroft and  
Vikki Cook © 1997 PDI Worship RPC: CCLI License No. 79597

***Turn Your Eyes***

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside  
Where justice and mercy embrace  
There the Son of God gave His life for us  
And our measureless debt was erased

Jesus to You we lift our eyes, Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the lion awake  
What a glorious dawn fear of death is gone  
For we carry His life in our veins

Jesus to You we lift our eyes, Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Turn your eyes to the heavens  
Our King will return for His own  
Every knee will bow every tongue will shout  
All glory to Jesus alone

Jesus to You we lift our eyes, Jesus our glory and our prize  
We adore You behold You our Savior ever true  
Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to You

George Romanacce | Helen H. Lemmel | Kevin Winebarger | Nathan Stiff | Nic Trout © 2019 Sovereign  
Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI License # 79597

***Broken Vessels***

All these pieces Broken and scattered  
In mercy gathered Mended and whole  
Empty-handed But not forsaken  
I've been set free I've been set free

Amazing grace How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost  
But now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

Oh, I can see it now  
Oh, I can see the love in Your eyes  
Laying yourself down Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure You take our weakness  
You set Your treasure In jars of clay  
So take this heart, Lord I'll be Your vessel  
The world to see Your life in me, oh

Amazing grace How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost  
But now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

Oh, I can see it now  
Oh, I can see the love in Your eyes  
Laying yourself down  
Raising up the broken to life

Amazing grace How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost  
But now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

***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.

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, Music by Rowland Hugh  
Pritchard ©Public domain CCLI License # 79597



**715 *Come, Ye Thankful People Come***

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,  
fruit unto his praise we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
unto joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away,  
give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
to thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”