

ADVENT

The word *Advent* comes from a Latin word that means "coming" or "arrival." Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a season of repentance and rejoicing. It is the season in which we, as God's redeemed people, prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. It is also a season to remember that our Lord Jesus will come again in glory on the Last Day. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and await his return, "we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2).



Church of the Master



Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is at hand. - Matthew 3:2

God was coming to live among his people. John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way of the Lord. John proclaimed "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3). During Advent we confess our sins, acknowledging that we need the Savior born in Bethlehem. In humble repentance we prepare to welcome the Lamb of God, the Lamb who came to die on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The Lord reigns,
let the earth rejoice. - Psalm 97:1

During this season, at home and in church, we light candles on Advent wreaths to mark the passing weeks. The candle for the third Sunday of Advent is often a pink or rose color to represent our joyful anticipation of Christ's birth. Its symbolism comes from the Scripture reading appointed for that day: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed
his people. - Luke 1:68

Our Advent season of waiting lasts only four weeks. The Old Testament people of God waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel. When the time was right, "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law" (Galatians 4:4-5). During Advent, we, too, wait for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). As God's redeemed people, we offer up our Advent prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER

Reformed Church in America

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*. Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent.
We're pleased to have each of you here to worship with us.*

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

11:00 AM

Silent Preparation for Worship

*As clay yields to a potter's hand, so may we yield our
spirits to you, dear God.*

Welcome

** Hymn of Praise #178 - "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

** Call to Worship: (responsively)*

Ridden by fear, we groped beneath the noonday sun as if the sky above were dark.

**BUT THE DARKNESS DISAPPEARED WHEN THE ANGEL OF GOD BROKE
THE SILENCE:**

"Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all
the people."

**THE CHILD BROUGHT NEAR THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD, AND OUR
HEARTS LEAPED FOR JOY.**

We had expected God's rule to begin with mighty displays of power, with bursts of
lightening and claps of thunder.

**BUT IT BURST UPON US WITH THE WHIMPERS OF A TINY BABY, OF THE
INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF PEACE THERE SHALL
BE NO END.**

** Prayer of Praise and Adoration*

** Confession of Faith - Apostles' Creed (#622 in hymnal), page 6 on this PDF*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O GOD, WE NEED CHRIST TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT, TO WAKEN OUR SPIRIT. WE CONFESS OUR LACK OF FAITH HAS MADE US FEARFUL. LET YOUR ANGELS SING AGAIN TO US OF PEACE FOR BODY AND SOUL. WE ACKNOWLEDGE WE HAVE LET OUR DESIRES FOOLISHLY LEAD US ASTRAY. MAY YOUR STAR ONCE MORE SET OUR COURSE IN A FIRM DIRECTION. WE HAVE TURNED OUR FAITH INTO A LIFELESS RITUAL. MAY YOUR MANGER CALL US AGAIN TO EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND DEVOTION. WE HAVE CAREFULLY KEPT OUR GIFTS AND HAVE NOT FREELY GIVEN OUR GOODS AND OUR HEARTS TO YOU. MAY THE WISE MEN SHOW US THE SPIRIT OF GIVING. LORD, LET YOUR SPIRIT LINGER IN OUR HEARTS, AND BE BORN IN OUR LIVES. AMEN.

Announcements

- * *Hymn of Preparation #171 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Advent Theme: "The Blessings of Advent!"

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16 (vv.11-13,14-16)

Matthew 1:18-25 (vv.18-20,21-23,24-25)

Sermon- "Advent Brings to the Church and the World Blessings of God's Redeeming Love:"

Lord's Prayer

- * *Doxology (#39)*
- * *Blessing of Our Tithes and Offerings*
- * *Prayer*
- * *Closing Hymn #557 - "Redeemed"*

- * *Choral Benediction: "Shalom to You" (congregation)*

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

- *Benediction (Pastor)*

- * Please stand if able

Church of the Master Ministries

Sunday	11:00 AM	Worship Service (Holy Communion celebrated on the 1 st Sunday of each month)
	12:00 PM	"Hour of Prayer Power" in Hahn Hall.
Monday	5:00-9:00 PM	Bushiken Karate
Tuesday:	6:45 PM	Bible Study Fellowship (Men's Group) - contact Ed Bungert, zajdml@optimum.net
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Online Bible study: Contact Ron Rivera for info on joining
	5:00-9:00PM	Bushiken Karate
Thursday	7:30 PM	Women's Alcoholic Anonymous
Saturday	12:00 noon	Online Bible study: Contact Ron Rivera for info on joining
	9:30AM-1:00PM	Bushiken Karate

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

“Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer”

The Prayer List

Our prayers reflect a wonderful and whole-hearted commitment to intercessory prayer by this congregation. Each name will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Those with Special Needs:

Diane * Elena Caldera * Anne Dowling * Jerry Kemps * Jane Maze * Donald Zuvich

Prayers for Those Who Are Ill or have Medical Concerns:

Cathy Cortese * Heather * Carole Mahon * Pat * Elder Alistair Sealy * Francesca * Mike * Rev. Liz Brantum * Frank Font * Sharon Alexander * Rosa Stewart * Terry Mahon * Carol & Wally Cintron * Gene Peterson * Damon Hayden * Janet (friend of Mahon family) * Beverly Morrison * Patti Zeig * Rev. Singletary * Connie * Loretta Byrd & Wendy * Diante * Allen Ford * Alice & Alex Rivera * Arlene 'Auntie' Mayers *

Prayers for Those Dealing with Turmoil or Family Difficulties:

Cintron family * Heather * Donny & Carolyn Rosemond * Nancy & Gene Peterson * Barbara * Jay Escobar & family * Sharon Alexander * Damon & Alex and family * Wintress * Kiera & Avery & Martz family * Tyler, Nicole & Jackson * All caregivers * everyone battling addictions

Prayers For Those Seeking Direction/Needing God's Presence in Their Lives:

Heather * Zachariah Bungert * Ed & Marnie Reidy and their sons * Elvis Frias Sr. & Theresa * Diante Stinson * Corey Streeter * young adults

Prayers for Those Seeking Employment:

Prayers for World Concerns:

Concerns for job security for Federal workers * An end to the war between Russia & Ukraine and the Middle East conflict * An end to all the violence * Peace and healing in our community and the nation * All first responders * Our country's safety * The future of our churches * The President and his administration * Pastor Sohail Latif and his congregation in Pakistan * Worldwide conflicts * Sean Buckley & Katie Mahon and all active duty members & their families

Prayers for the families & friends of those who have died:

Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Sealy, Pastor of Mott Haven Reformed Church

PRAYERS FOR THE GROWTH OF CHURCH OF THE MASTER:

Lord, please send people through our doors with whom we can share the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24th at 7:30PM

CHURCH OF THE MASTER MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered community church united in prayer and loving Christian fellowship, Bible teaching and preaching Christ crucified,

Latin hymn, 18th century
Trans. by Frederick Oakeley

O Come, All Ye Faithful — 178

Wade's *Cantus Diversi*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; Come ye, O
2. ‡ Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; Sing, all ye
3. ‡ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold Him, born the
bright hosts of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry
Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in

REFRAIN

King of an - gels:
in the high - est: O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
flesh ap - pear - ing:

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

CHRIST: HIS BIRTH

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

171 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin hymn, 12th century
Trans. by John M. Neale-alt.
In unison

Plainsong, 13th century

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
3. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
4. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save
ad - vent here; O drive a - way the shades of night
heav'n - ly home Where all Thy saints with Thee shall dwell—

REFRAIN
Parts

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! re - joice!
And pierce the clouds and bring us light.
O come, O come, Em - man - u - el!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL
CHRIST: HIS ADVENT

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Isaiah 7:10-16 (vv. 11-13, 14-16)
Matthew 1: 18-25 (vv. 18-20, 21-23, 24-25)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,

¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman^[b] is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Redeemed — 557

FANNY J. CROSBY —alt.

WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK

1. Re - deemed—how I love to pro - claim it! Re - deemed by the
 2. Re - deemed—and so hap - py in Je - sus, No lan - guage my
 3. I think of my bless - ed Re - deem - er, I wor - ship Him
 4. I know I shall see in His beau - ty The King in whose

blood of the Lamb! Re - deemed thru His in - fin - ite mer - cy,
 rap - ture can tell; I know that the light of His pres - ence
 all the day long; I sing, for I can - not be si - lent!
 law I de - light, Who lov - ing - ly guards all my foot - steps

CHORUS

His child, and for - ev - er, I am.
 With me does con - tin - ual - ly dwell. Re - deemed, re -
 His love is the theme of my song.
 And gives to me songs in the night.

deemed, Re - deemed by the blood of the Lamb; Re -

deemed, re - deemed, His child, and for - ev - er, I am.

WITNESS AND TESTIMONY