

THE LORD'S DAY

December 26, 2021
The First Sunday of Christmas



Christ Reformed Church
Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor

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Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 5:00 PM

Member of:

United Reformed Churches in North America (www.urna.org)
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org)
International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

Merciful Father, You so loved the world that You gave Your only begotten Son. He who was rich became poor for us, the eternal Word made flesh, a great Light shining in the darkness. Only because of Your Word and Spirit have we seen that Light and been drawn into its brightness. Give us the grace humbly and joyfully to receive Your Son, even as the shepherds and princes who welcomed Him, and to look no further for our redemption than to this child lying in a manger. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Micah 4:1-2a

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; 21:3-4

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Amen!

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them,

and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,

and death shall be no more,

neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,

for the former things have passed away.

†"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" #374*

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

Call to Confession Psalm 32:1-6

Prayer of Confession *(Book of Common Prayer, 1549)*

O most mighty God, and merciful Father, who has compassion upon all people; who desires not the death of a sinner, but that he should rather turn from his sin and be saved: mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Your nature is always to have mercy; to you only it belongs to forgive sins. Spare us therefore, O Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed; enter not into judgment with your servants, who are dust, and miserable sinners; but so turn your anger from us, who meekly acknowledge our sins, and truly repent of our faults, and so make haste to help us in this world, that we may ever live with you in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

†Psalm 46C

Pastoral Prayer

†Psalm 16A

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 53
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 613)
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Matthew 2:19-23
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 808)
Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

MATTHEW 2:19-23
HE WOULD BE CALLED A NAZARENE
EXPOSITION OF MATTHEW 1-2 #6
 i. The Return to Nazareth
 ii. The Promise of the Prophets
 iii. The Message of Matthew

†“Joy to the World!” #299

God Communes with Us in the Lord's Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration
By the promise of God this bread and wine are
for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up
your hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Wine
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering 1st: General Fund
 2nd: Peace URC

God Blesses Us and Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction Numbers 6:24-26
The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD
make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the LORD lift up his
countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen!

†Doxology (unannounced, #568)*
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Postlude

† = please stand, if able
bold = congregational response
* = the congregation is invited to lift hands
(during last stanza); cf. Psa. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

If you are visiting with us this morning, we
invite you to participate in the Lord's Supper
with us if the following is true of you:

1. you have received Christian baptism
into the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit;
2. you have made a public profession of
faith in Jesus Christ;
3. you have formal, committed
membership in a true Christian church.

If you have any questions about this, please
speak with an elder after the service.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

5:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

Almighty God, who has given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we, being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

†Call to Worship Psalm 48:1-3

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psa. 124:8; Eph. 1:2
Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

†Psalm 48A

†Confession of Faith The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the 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 men 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 sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I 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 worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic¹ and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

†Gloria Patri #571*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

God's Will for Our Lives Deut. 5:6-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

¹ "Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).

Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our fortress.
Come, behold the works of the LORD,
How he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
**He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!

Hymn of the Month

†“Savior of the Nations, Come” #316*

Scripture Reading Acts 3
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 911)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

I SHARE IN HIS ANOINTING
LORD’S DAY 12
THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

31 Q. Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

A. Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the deliverance he has won for us.

32 Q. But why are you called a Christian?

A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

†Psalm 8C

Offering

General Fund

†Benediction 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Amen!

†“By the Sea of Crystal” #473*

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

bold = congregational response

* = the congregation is invited to lift hands (during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8