



A FESTIVAL OF

LESSONS
and Carols

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1118 Union St. Columbia, SC 29201

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 29, 2024 10:00 AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

☩ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL
IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GREETING

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion until the glorious redemption brought to us by God's holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

In the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+ LESSONS AND CAROLS +

Lesson 1.....Genesis 3: 1-15

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

LBW #270“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Lesson 2.....Isaiah 40: 1-5

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LBW #267.....“Joy to the World”

Lesson 3.....Isaiah 7: 10-14

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LBW #269.....“Once in Royal David's City”

Lesson 4.....Luke 1: 26-44

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LBW #265.....“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Lesson 5.....Luke 1: 46-55

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ELW #279.....“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Lesson 6.....Luke 2: 1-7

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ELW #277.....“Away in a Manger”

Lesson 7: Luke 2: 8-20

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

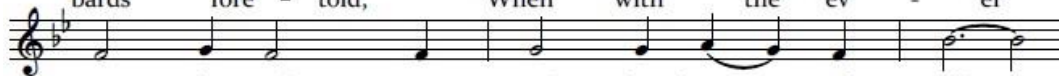
(original lyrics by the Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, December 1849)



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful
 3. But with the woes of sin and strife The world has
 4. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are
 5. For lo! The days are hast - 'ning on By proph - et



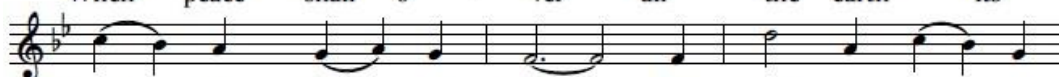
song of old, From an - gels bend - ing
 wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly
 suf - fer'd long; Be - neath the an - gel
 bend - ing low, Who toil a - long the
 bards fore - told, When with the ev - er



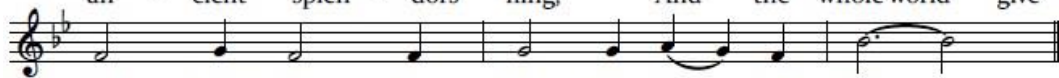
near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
 strain have rolled Two thou - sand years of wrong;
 climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 circ - ling years Comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men From
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They
 And man, at war with man, hears not The
 Look now! For glad and gold - en hours Come
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its



heav'n's all - gra - cious King"-- The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov'r - ing wing, And ev - er o'er its
 love - song which they bring;-- Oh, hush the noise, ye
 swift - ly on the wing;-- Oh, rest be - side the
 an - cient splen - dors fling, And the whole world give



still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 Bab - el sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 men of strife, And hear the an - gels sing!
 wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in the Lord, I invite your prayers...

for the whole church on earth, . . .

for all the ministries of the church and the mission of the Gospel, . . .

for this congregation and all who join with us in prayer. . . .

I invite your prayers...

for the well-being of God's good creation, . . .

for favorable weather and abundant harvests, . . .

for wisdom in our stewardship of the earth. . . .

I invite your prayers...

for peace and justice throughout the world, . . .

for all the nations and all who are in authority, . . .

for our own country, our state, and our community. . . .

I invite your prayers...

for the poor, the outcast, and those who are oppressed, . . .

for the sick and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, . . .

for those who are in grief, and those who are alone, . . .

for ourselves, and for those who have requested our prayers, . . .

for those whose needs and concerns are known only to God, . . .

and for those who have passed from this world into eternal life. . . .

Into your hands, gracious Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Anthem.....“Love Has Come” Choir

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

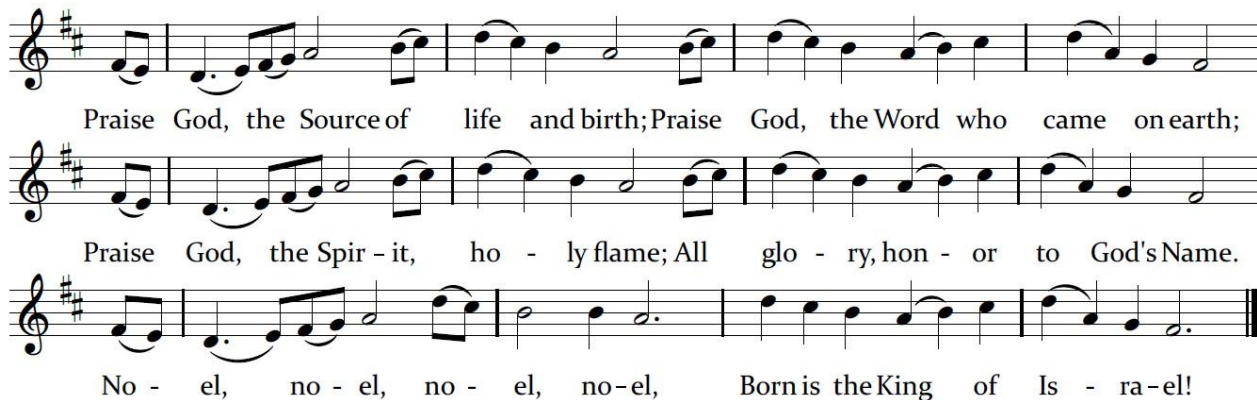
Love is born! Come share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of His mother. What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

Christmas Doxology (tune: “The First Noel”)

Christmas Doxology

Tune: The First Noel



Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word who came on earth;
Praise God, the Spir - it, ho - ly flame; All glo - ry, hon - or to God's Name.
No - el, no - el, no - el, no-el, Born is the King of Is - ra-el!

+ HOLY COMMUNION +

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER XI and the LORD'S PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent

in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shone forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out

his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,

in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,

to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,

to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people

for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you
and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth;
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ,
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**Amen. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come;
see what God makes known for you.

Amen.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.


The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone.

If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.


LAMB OF GOD Sung to the tune of “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Lamb of God


(tune: It Came upon the Midnight Clear)



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of all the world.



Have mer-cy on us, Lamb of God, and grant to us your peace.



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of all the world.



Have mer-cy on us, Lamb of God, and grant to us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #272..... “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

TABLE BLESSING and PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus 'name we pray.

Amen.

Lesson 8.....John 1: 1-18

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God bless us with abundant grace;

Christ our Savior + give us the joys of everlasting life;

and the Spirit of truth keep us in faith, hope and love.

Amen.

ELW #288.....“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Emmanuel! God is with us!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Join us on **Sunday, December 31, at 7 PM** for a special Watch Night Service at Reformation, as we reflect on the past year and welcome the new one with faith, freedom, and belonging.


Following the service, enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship with our church family. Let’s end the year with gratitude and begin the new year with hope, prayer, and community. Everyone is welcome—come as you are!

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Do you love sharing God’s love with little ones? We’re looking for volunteers to help lead a special time for our children during worship—from the scriptural readings through the sharing of the

peace. This is your chance to make a meaningful impact, share your faith, and maybe even rediscover your inner kid!

Children are a priority for discipleship and teaching here at Reformation Lutheran Church. Will you step up and offer your time?

 Contact Pastor Steven Curry Gallego at **pastor@reformationcae.org** for details. Let's build a foundation of faith together for our youngest disciples!

PUB THEOLOGY: FOOD, DRINKS, AND FAITH

Ever thought about exploring theology in a fun, relaxed setting? Pub Theology is all about meeting at a local pub or restaurant, enjoying good food and drinks, and having thoughtful conversations about life, faith, and everything in between.

Sounds interesting? Let Pastor Steven know at **pastor@reformationcae.org** or share your interest with any member of Council. Come for the fellowship, stay for the faith-filled fun!



COUNCIL INSTALLATION - Sunday, January 5

Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for our newly elected and appointed church council members who have answered the call to leadership. Let us come together in worship to honor their commitment and pray for guidance and wisdom as they serve our congregation in the coming year.

Epiphany

On January 6th we will have a meal as part of a short worship service followed by taking down the Christmas decorations starting at 6 pm. Join us as we celebrate the revelation of the Son of God.

MLK DAY Observance

During worship on Sunday, January 19, we will celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LET'S TACKLE HUNGER TOGETHER! 🏈🍲

Starting **January 12**, we're kicking off **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!** This is your chance to make a big difference this season by donating canned goods to support **local families**.



Here's the game plan:

Bring your canned goods and drop them off in the **designated boxes in the narthex**. We need non-perishable items.

We need all of our Reformation family to get in the game! **Let's tackle hunger for individuals and families in the Midlands.**

Watch for more details about **Jersey/Uniform** Sunday in February 2025.

On Sunday, February 9, wear your favorite team's jersey or uniform as we celebrate the big game and our collective impact in fighting hunger.

Contact Alicia Javis about ways you can help.

Reformation Lutheran Church is an inclusive, LGBTQIA+ affirming congregation that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.



OPPORTUNITIES of WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

In Person Sunday Worship Livestream - 10:00 am-11:00 am www.reformationcae.org

Coffee Hour is held after the worship service in the Reformation Fellowship Hall.

Wired Word is held via Zoom on Mondays at 7:30 pm.

ZOOM ID - 898 0135 9588