



We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Reformation, a congregation of Christ's Church, is an affirming, loving and welcoming community on a faith journey. We provide worship, programs, ministries and pastoral care to all, regardless of ethnicity, age, physical or mental ability, family configuration, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religious background, economic status, or national origin. We embrace and welcome diversity and full participation in this community of worship, where the love of God is the foundation of all that we say and do.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus – Galatians 3:28.



Overview for this Sunday: Love Redefines Power and Dominion

As Advent begins, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming to the world in the light of a text that promises his final coming. We, like the gospel writer, Luke, live in the time between these two "advents" of Jesus. Today's gospel gives us guidance on how to live faithfully as we wait for Jesus to return. However, in this in-between time, it is easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the promises of Jesus. Daily tasks and routines can lull us into apathy. Ease and success can allow us to ignore our spiritual needs. Struggles, setbacks, and disappointments can cause us to lose hope and fall into despair. But Jesus tells us we should not feel beaten down or defeated by the struggles of this world, but instead "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

Jesus goes on to say that there will be signs, signs of new life and growth, such as the sprouting of a leaf on a fig tree in the summertime. These signs are perceptible to us here and now. These signs help us know that God's kingdom is coming. In fact, they remind us that in Jesus, God's kingdom has already come near, and Jesus words will not pass away until this kingdom has fully come. We should live with our eyes focused on today's signs that demonstrate God's reign and trust that Jesus' redemption of the world will one day be complete.

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✠ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.
Alleluia! Amen!

The SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding be with you all!
And also with you!

Time for sharing of the peace.

The GATHERING HYMN

ELW#254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The GREETING

May the Lord be with you as we gather for worship;
in prayer, hymnody, and word.
And also with you!


The PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.


Opening Dialogue

Leader:



Ho - ly God! Fill us this day with new breath

All:



And we shall be liv - ing words of praise! *(directly to Morning Hymn)*

Morning Hymn



1. Sing your joy pro - claim God's glo - ry! Rise and sing, the
 2. All the earth is filled with re-joic - ing, light and life the
 3. May we learn to be - come your King - dom. May we be your
 4. Light our way O God of the liv - ing, May we learn to



morn - ing has come! Bless our God and praise all cre - a - tion;
 won - der of God! Christ has tri - umphed! Ris - en for ev - er!
 kind - ness and truth! Love is our call - ing, gift of your pres - ence;
 see with new eyes! Je - sus the Lord, our pow - er and prom - ise;



Song of the earth, and light from heav - en: God is a - live!
 Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dream - ing: God is a - live!
 Chil - dren of God, and spir - it of Je - sus: God is a - live!
 Light for the blind, and food for the hun - gry: God is a - live!

Last time to Coda ⊕



Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

⊕ *Coda*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 1

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

The Acolyte will light one candle.

Song:

ELW#240

(Verse 1)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from Revelation.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Take a moment now to fill out the prayer request form found on the last printed page in the worship bulletin. The ushers will collect them after the Affirmation of Faith.

The AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – a modern creed

**We believe God is the creator,
Who has promised to love us always.**

**We believe Jesus Christ,
Fully God and fully human,
is God's promise living among us.
He experienced all the pain and joy
and challenges of human life.
God's forgiving selfless love was revealed to us
when Jesus suffered death on the cross.
His actions of selflessness resurrected God's love for us all,
and a promise of a new life in unity with God.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit is God's Breath,
breathing life into our spirits,
guiding us even through the darkest
and most difficult moments of our lives.**

**We believe God is among us in community.
Mysterious, yet very real,
in Creation, in Breath, in Flesh.
God promises to be with us always,
even to the end of the age.
This is our faith!**

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church

Soft music plays as the ushers collect all written prayer requests.

All are welcome to write in any special prayer requests during the in-person worship service using the worship service bulletin or via our Facebook Livestream service in the comments section. Turn to the last page of the printed worship service bulletin, fill out the prayer request sheet, and hand it to an usher.

The PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, hear my prayer

Response to be sung

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive societal storms. Help the Church to be a place of respite and nurturing so we can face such storms and trust in your promise of justice and righteousness. Hear us, O God.

O Lord, hear my prayer...

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

O Lord, hear my prayer...

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Comfort all who need your presence, especially those we remember silently in our hearts, and with voice upon our lips (*pause*). God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

O Lord, hear my prayer...

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Please consider giving.

www.reformationcae.org/giving



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Reformation Lutheran

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY Let There Be Praise

W&P#87



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.



Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. glo - ry.



Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.



For - ev - er - more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

The OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Table

The WORDS OF BEGINNING

Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you for the deliverance of your people.

Blessed are you for the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus Christ,

the Word made flesh,
the flesh made bread.

Blessed are you for your Presence realized,

Blessed are you for your Presence in our midst,

Blessed are you for your Presence in our homes,

Blessed are you for your Presence in us,

the Word made flesh,
the flesh made bread,
the bread made us.

On the night in which our Lord was betrayed...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,

Christ has died,

Christ is Risen,

Christ will come again!

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world. **Amen.**

The LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the power and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

The INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.
Amen!

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL, a profound remembrance that Jesus introduced to his disciples at the Last Supper, before his crucifixion. All are welcome to join us as members of God's family, brothers and sisters in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the human family. The church affirms our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. We offer a prepackaged wine or grape juice communion set. The sets are on the table in the narthex.

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Blessing, Honor, and Glory

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.

Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!

Seat - ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.

Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!

Seat - ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb. Ho - ly,

righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN**Jesus Lamb of God****W&P#76**

F C/E Dm F/A B \flat F/C C
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your
 name;
 F C F C/E Dm F/A
 Je - sus, Lamb of God,
 B \flat F/C C B \flat /F F B \flat /C C
 wor - thy is your name.

The TABLE BLESSING

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

The PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

The BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

King of kings

80

1 * Em B⁷ Em

King of kings and Lord of lords: glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

B⁷ Em

King of kings and Lord of lords: glo-ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

2 B⁷ Em

Je - sus, Prince of Peace: glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

B⁷ Em

Je - sus, Prince of Peace: glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

**may be sung in canon*

The DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God!

Worship Participants

Pastor Tim Bupp, Presiding Minister & Homilist

Courtney Noya, Teaching Parish Seminarian

Ginny Eiwen, Lector

Ginny Eiwen & Lynn Black, Ushers

Sick and Homebound: Tracy Hamiter; Barbara Prosser; Connie Pool; Bobbie Black and Beth Mayer.

Health: Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; The Propst Family and Sharon Baldwin's mom, Martha Bolton.

In Person /Gathering Update - In light of vaccination availability and current COVID conditions in Richland, Lexington, and Kershaw counties, and in conversation with congregation members, we will resume with the following practices.

WORSHIP

In Worship we will wear masks, covering both mouth and nose. Registration for Worship will not be required. We will add more musical liturgy back into the Service, making the Service more closely resemble pre-COVID structure and content. And we can sing! The congregation may choose to sing hymns and liturgy — softly (not projecting) behind their masks. We will continue to use pre-packaged communion elements, including wine and grape juice options and to practice social distancing in the Sanctuary — 16 feet distance from singer(s) to congregation and 6 feet distance between household groups.

MEETINGS

In groups of 15 persons or less, non-vaccinated persons are required to wear a mask at all times, but if all agree, vaccinated persons may remove their masks. If possible, doors should be opened to increase air circulation in the room. We are not yet ready to have indoor shared food events.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

We will not encourage children to gather in groups (like Children's Chatter, Nursery, or in person Education) until children can be vaccinated and we have better guidance from the CDC. Children who are able are encouraged to wear masks. Children will be invited to participate in worship as acolytes, cross bearers, or lectors as they are interested and able.

Christmas Caroling @ Reformation

Come out and join in for Caroling on December 17th @ 6:30 pm.

The Caroling will be on the front steps of the Church and all voices are encouraged to celebrate the Christmas Cheer. There will be hot cocoa to keep you warm and candy canes to add extra flavoring if so desired. Contact Ann Kurth for details.

In Person & Virtual Adult Sunday School

8:30 AM

Adult Sunday School is every Sunday at 8:30am. The Zoom Meeting ID: 859 4578 5914. The book **I Can Do No Other: The Church's New Here We Stand Moment**, by Anna M. Madsen, a Lutheran freelance theologian, is the foundation for our Adult Sunday School discussions. Purchase a copy of the book (a few copies are available at the church for \$15.00 to cover shipping), or order your copy from Augsburg Press and start reading!

In Person Sunday Worship Livestream

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Join us in the sanctuary for in person worship or follow us on Reformation Lutheran Church on Facebook. The online bulletin can be found at www.reformationcae.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check out our Calendar of Events to see what's happening at Reformation <https://reformationcae.org/calendar>

EVENTS AND NEWS

To reserve the sanctuary, parlor or fellowship hall, please use the link listed below to request space. The church office will schedule and confirm availability.

To send announcements, updates and special news to share for publishing in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter, use the link below.

Weekly Bulletin Announcements – Deadline is every Tuesday at Noon.

Newsletter Announcements – Deadline is the eighteenth of the month.

UPDATING OUR RECORDS

Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date with the church office. Our records include your birthdate and anniversary date (if applicable), mailing address, email address(s), phone(s), and family members. If there is any change, be sure the church office knows. If you want to check to be sure the records are up to date, call (803-252-1507) or email (officeofreform@gmail.com) the church office.

Monthly Zoom Information Calendar

Day	Time	Group	Meeting ID	Meeting Type
Every Sunday	8:30 - 9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School	859 4578 5914	Hybrid
Every Wednesday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bible Study	853 3035 6858	Hybrid
Every Wednesday	7:30 - 8:45 PM	Wired Word	814 6855 7625	Zoom Only
2nd Sundays	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Executive Committee	814 2447 3414	In Person / Zoom Option
2nd Mondays	7:30 - 8:45 PM	Education Committee	872 8227 0016	Zoom Only
2nd Thursdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Finance Committee	862 8298 4076	Zoom Only
2nd Thursdays	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Safe Space Dinner	IN PERSON	In Person Only
3rd Sundays	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Council Meeting	854 3791 4142	In Person / Zoom Option
3rd Tuesdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Worship & Music Committee	857 8690 1040	Zoom Only
3rd Thursdays	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Servants Committee	860 0836 0775	Zoom Only
3rd Fridays	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Happy Hour	824 2935 6893	Zoom Only
4th Thursdays	7:00 - 8:15 PM	Safe Space Committee	871 2863 2293	In Person / Zoom Option

Prayer Request Sheet

The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church, we are committed to pray, your needs are important to us. Please share your prayer request and return it as directed so we may include your petition in our prayers.

**Please write your prayer request below.
Tear the sheet out of the bulletin and hand it to an usher.
You may opt out of sharing your name or contact info.**

Date _____ **Phone** _____

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Prayer Request
