

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here.”  
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

***Ascension***

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



***An Open and Affirming Congregation***

**December 1, 2019**

**11:00 AM**



As you prepare for the birth of the Christ-child,  
look for signs of HOPE this week.

**HOPE**

***“O people of God, come, let us  
walk in the light of the Lord!”***

—Isaiah 2:5

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## Order of Worship

### PRELUDE

“Watchful and Waiting” (Phillips)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please use this time to check-in on social media.  
Reformed Church of the Ascension, United Church of Christ*

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

### CHORAL INTROIT

“O Come, Divine Messiah” (Pellegrin)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*please remain seated*

Leader: I rejoiced when people said to me:  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**People: And now, Jerusalem,  
we stand within your gates.**

Leader: All the tribes assemble here giving thanks  
to the Holy Name.

**People: Peace be within your walls and security within  
your towers.**

Leader: For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, “Peace be within you!”

**People: For the sake of the Holy Name I will seek  
your good. *from Psalm 122***

## HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
*musical setting found Glory to God 88*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer,  
Our spirits by your Advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*said in unison*

Gracious God, keeper of the secrets of creation, visit us through the cry of need, the unforeseen stranger, and the unexpected guest, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ in the midst of life, at the end of life, and at the end of time.

*silent prayer of confession*

Leader: For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

*please rise*

## **HYMN**

*musical setting found Glory to God 88*

O come, O Wisdom from on high  
and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill all the world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!  
*Isaiah 2:5*  
*please be seated*

## **MOMENT OF WAITING**

*(we will wait upon the Lord in silence for one minute)*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

### **PASSING THE PEACE**

*Let us greet one another with the words,  
"The peace of Christ be with you."*

### **THE CHILDREN'S TIME**

*please be seated*

## **HYMN**

*musical setting found Glory to God 88*

O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

## **THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Hebrew Lesson                      Isaiah 2:1-5                      *page 631*

## **ANTHEM**

“Bring Us Hope”                      (Schram)

Epistle Lesson                      Romans 13:11-14                      *page 162*

## **HYMN**

*please rise*

“Creator of the Stars of Night” **Verses 1 & 2** *Glory to God 84*

V1.                      Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

V2.                      When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary,  
blameless mother mild.

Gospel Lesson                      Matthew 24:36-44                      *page 27*

## **SERMON**

# OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES

## OFFERTORY

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Corde Natus)

## DOXOLOGY

*please rise*

*tune: Winchester New*

**All:** *singing*

**On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings,  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*please rise*

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord!**

**Leader:** We thank you, O God that from the very beginning your Word has been the light and life of the world. Through your Word all things were made, and by your Word we shall be made new.

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** We remember that in every age you have called patriarchs and prophets, apostles and martyrs to bear witness to the light of your Word, that all people may believe.

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:** We rejoice that your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and that, beholding the incarnation of your glory, we all have received grace upon grace.

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: We remember that by becoming flesh of our flesh, Christ sanctified all of life from birth to death, and to redeem us he took upon himself the whole range of our human existence.

**All: Christ was born, Christ had died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again!**

Leader: Through the powerful benediction of your Holy Spirit we ask you to come and to transform us and these gifts of bread and wine that we offer together with our praise and thanksgiving, that we may be fed with these holy mysteries and be so united with Christ until we finally eat at your table in the heavenly kingdom.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Glory to God 552*  
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*  
*heaven and earth are full of your glory.*  
*Hosanna in the highest.*  
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

*please be seated*

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread and gave it to the disciples, saying,  
“This is my body which is broken for you, Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying; “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me . . .” By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s coming again.

**All: Amen, Come, Lord Jesus!**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

“Come Now Prince of Peace” *Glory to God 103*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Leader: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

**People: Amen, come Holy Spirit.**

## **BREAKING THE BREAD & POURING THE WINE**

Leader: Through the Broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we share in the new life Christ gives.

**People: Let us keep the feast. Amen.**

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready, come and taste and see how good the Lord is.

“O, Lamb of God” *Glory to God 555*

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.*

## **PARTAKING OF THE MEAL**

*We will receive communion in the pews this morning. Wine is in the outer rings of the trays and grape juice is in the inner ring of the trays.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*please rise*

Leader: In Bethlehem, the place of bread, you came, O Jesus, incarnated in the body of a helpless child and wrapped in the diapers of our own common humanity to be fully God with us.

**All: Come again, Emmanuel!**

Leader: At the Bethlehem of this table you have come to us today in the midst of a common meal of everyday bread and wine to feed us with mysteries beyond our imagining.

**All: Come again, O Bread of Life!**

Leader: To the Bethlehems of this world where there is no peace and holy places are desecrated by the machines of violence, and people yearn for just a morsel of heaven,

**All: Come again, Lord Jesus! Come!**

## CLOSING HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” *Glory to God 377*

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: You know what time it is, how it is now the  
moment for you to wake from sleep.  
The night is far-gone, the day is near.

*Romans 13:11a, 12a*

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*Isaiah 2:5b*

All: Amen.

### CHORAL RESPONSE

“While We Are Waiting, Come” **Verse 1** *Glory to God 92*

V1. While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.

### TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

#### POSTLUDE

“Our Souls Reach Forward” (Palochko)

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
in memory of my dear friend, Dorothy Thompson, who lost  
her courageous and valiant fight with cancer on  
October 22, 2019, by Barbara Montague-Graham*

# Here are ways you can embody HOPE during the first week of the Season of Advent:

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**Monday: REDUCE** | Make a plan to bike, walk or take public transportation to work once a month or more to reduce your carbon footprint. Stick with the plan.

*#LoveOfCreation*

**Tuesday: RECORD** | Using a smartphone or computer, record a Christmas carol for a loved one who lives far away and send it to them. *#LoveOfNeighbor*

**Wednesday: PICTURE** | Have children at church draw pictures for residents of a local nursing home.

*#LoveOfChildren*

**Thursday: RESTORE** | Spend time outdoors connecting with God's creation to seek harmony and see hope in the beauty of the natural world. *#LoveOfCreation*

**Friday: CARE** | Prepare and share a covered dish with an elderly neighbor or friend from church who lives alone.

*#LoveOfNeighbor*

**Saturday: SABBATH** | Unplug from the digital world and take a time of rest and recreation with the children in your life. *#LoveOfChildren*

What image depicts the promise of God's HOPE awaiting fulfillment in your life?

Share it on social media with **#3greatloves**



*We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to your during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.*

*We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Ministers</b>                        | All the people of the Congregation   |
| <b>Pastor</b>                           | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier  |
| <b>Minister of Music</b>                | Dan Weckerly   |
| <b>President of the Consistory</b>      | Liz Brunton  |
| <b>Vice President of the Consistory</b> | Michele Luke   |
| <b>Secretary of the Consistory</b>      | Molly Lorenz   |
| <b>Moderator of Spiritual Council</b>   |  |
| <b>Elders:</b>                          | Liz Brunton, Joan Hagerman, Mary Lambon<br>Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague Graham |
| <b>Chair of the Diaconate</b>           | Michele Luke   |
| <b>Deacons:</b>                         | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce<br>Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman                       |
| <b>Church Secretary</b>                 | Judy Parker  |
| <b>Sexton</b>                           | Emeric Suto  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                        | Sandy Maben  |

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