

**“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 15, 2019

11:00 AM



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

***“And the ransomed of the Lord shall
return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their
heads; they shall obtain joy and
gladness, and sorrow and sighing
shall flee away”*** —Isaiah 35:10

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PRELUDE

“Righteous Readiness” (Treusch/Smith)

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

“See How the Virgin Waits” (Jabusch)

GATHERING AND CONFESSION

please remain seated

Leader 1: Come together, people of God.

Pray, praise, and listen to familiar words
of revolutionary change.

Leader 2: Revolutionary? I’m not sure I want to hear this.

**People: “The Living God does great things for us,
and Holy is God’s Name.”**

Leader 2: Amen! So far, so good!

Leader 1: “God tumbles the mighty, raises the humble,
scatters the schemers, feeds the hungry
and dismisses the overfed.”

Leader 2: Wait a moment. Is this in the Bible?

It is? Are you serious, God?

People: We come together as the people of God.

Leader 1: Pray, praise, and listen
to familiar words of revolutionary change.

Leader 2: So, who's going to do all this? A baby?

Leader 1: Yes, a baby! Jesus Christ!

People: **“My soul glorifies the living God,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”**

All: **That's what Mary said—A baby, Jesus Christ.**

Leaders 1&2: Come together, people of God in hope of
revolutionary change for us and the world
around us.

People: **Amen.**

please rise

HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” *Glory to God 107*
Verses 1, 2 & 3

Leader: In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's
house shall be established as the highest of the
mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills;
Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall
come and say:

All: **“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.”** *Isaiah 2:2-3a*

please be seated

silent prayer of confession

MOMENT OF WAITING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” *Glory to God 107*
Verse 4

PASSING THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN’S TIME

please be seated

HYMN

“People, Look East” *Glory to God 105*

please rise

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10 *page 663*

ANTHEM

“Lift Up Your Heads O Gates” (Kampen)

Epistle Lesson James 5:7-10 *page 231*

HYMN

please rise

“Creator of the Stars of Night” **Verses 1 & 4** *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.

V4. Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

page 11

SERMON

MISSION MOMENT: Rachel Rutter

CANTICLE Luke 1:46b-55

Leader: "We magnify your name, O God."
My soul rejoices in God, my Savior, who has
remembered me; all the people will see my joy
because of the great things God has done.

People: "We magnify your name, O God."

Leader: The name of God is awesome and holy, full of
mercy in each generation; the proud are scattered,
the mighty brought down, the humble exalted, the
lonely raised up; the hungry are nourished, and
the rich are left empty; God has been faithful,
God has remembered the covenant; the promise
of God endures.

People: "We magnify your name, O God."

HYMN

“My Soul Cries Out with A Joyful Shout” *Glory to God 100*

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.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES OFFERTORY

“Advent Sacrifice” (Mann)

DOXOLOGY *Glory to God 96*

please rise

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!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Compassionate God, we would be agents of your caring, agents of hope, active in your service even as we wait for a new advent in the world. Work through us according to your will to open doors of hope for others. Receive this offering of our material resources, bless and use it for the flowering of hope in the needy and the suffering. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *Glory to God 93*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

“Soon the Lord Will Come” (Anderson)

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in memory of Alan Reider, by Sue Wendt*

Here are ways you can embody JOY during the third week of the Season of Advent:



Monday: REJOICE | The season is always a great time to see the wonder of creation and give joyful thanks for it. Take a moment today to rejoice in the earthly beauty all around you. *#LoveOfCreation*

Tuesday: DONATE | Over 1 Billion people lack access to clean water. Donate to an international mission effort working to bring water to those in need. *#LoveOfNeighbor*

Wednesday: SING | Ask your local children's hospital or ward if you can bring your choir to sing for their patients this week. The love you will see on their faces will thrill everyone - young and old. *#LoveOfChildren*

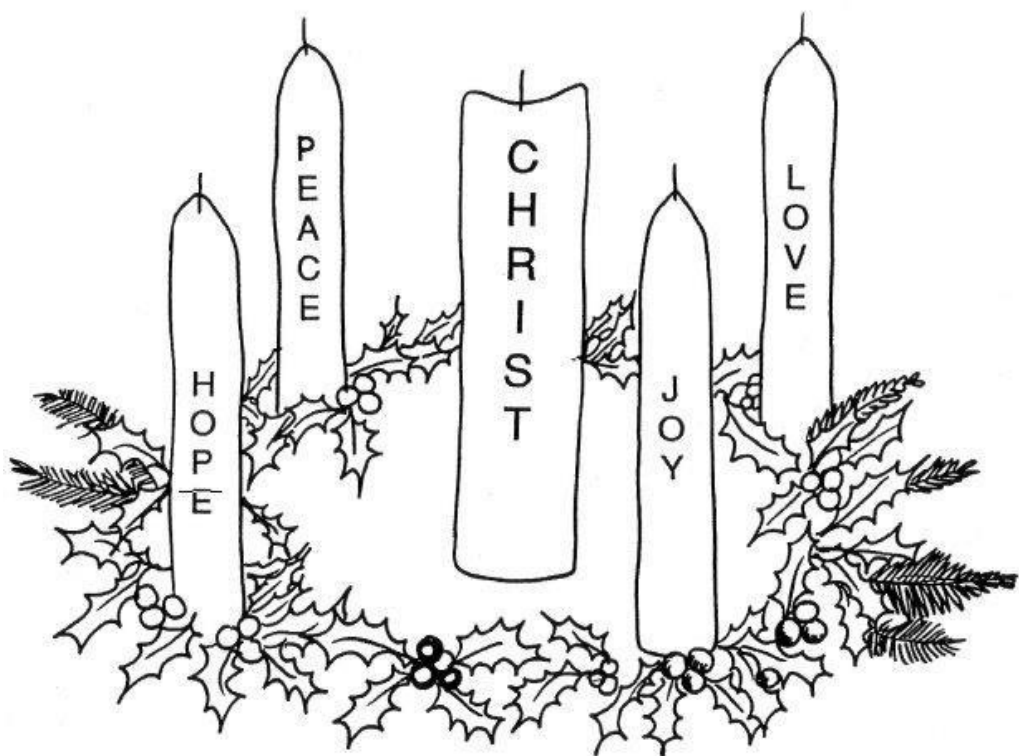
Thursday: ANTICIPATE | Food banks and direct service centers receive an abundance of donations during this season. However, need extend well beyond this season to all year round. Plan ways to care for the needs of other in your community in January, February, and even next summer. *#LoveOfCreation*

Friday: RECYCLE | It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastics in the ocean than fish. Recycle, reduce or find ways to eliminate single use plastics like straws, water bottles or plastic bags. *#LoveOfNeighbor*

Saturday: VOLUNTEER | Volunteer to care for small children at a crisis center, your church or a hospital. *#LoveOfChildren*

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

Share it on Social Media with **#3greatloves**





FAITH

EMMANUEL
GRACE
COMING
FATHER
HOPE
BIRTH
TRUST
GOD
KING
JEHOVAH
BEGINNING

HOPE

SON
JESUS
LOVE
LIGHT
ANDREW
TRUTH
LIVING
EMMANUEL
GIVE
KING
SAVIOUR

PEACE

GRACE
MESSIAH
FAITH
LIVING
CROSS
TRUST
BORN
CROSS

TRUST

PROMISES
PEACE
JESUS
GOD
FATHER
SON
LOVE
BIRTH
LIGHT
PRAY
GRACE



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.

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

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