



reformation
presbyterian church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

A Congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Please silence all cell phones.

* Those who are able, please stand.

† Latecomers may be seated.

Advent is a celebration of Christ's coming into the world. We light an advent wreath to mark the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas. Throughout church history the candles have been used to tell the Christmas story – Prophecy (purple), Bethlehem, Shepherds (pink), Angels, Christ (white). They have also been used to represent Christian virtues – Hope, Peace, Joy (pink), Love – and Christ (white).

Call to worship: God calls his people into his holy and loving presence in worship. As we worship we are blessed with the joy of the Lord. Today he graciously invites all people to worship through faith in Christ.

WELCOME TO REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ-centered • Gospel-driven • Kingdom-focused

By God's grace and for his glory, we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ by reaching lost sinners with the free offer of the gospel and equipping Christians to love, serve, and share Christ in all of life.

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS — (see page 11)

Rev. Matt Lucas

MOMENT OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP — *Still, Still, Still*

Austrian Arrangement by Dennis Alexander ©MCMXCII by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John McGregor Family

*** CALL TO WORSHIP — Psalm 45:1, 6**

Elder Doug Dolan

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

† * HYMN OF ADORATION — *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

Trinity Hymnal #198 (vv. 1-4)

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

* LORD'S PRAYER — Matthew 6:9-13

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.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH — From the *Nicene Creed*:

Elder: What do you believe about the person of Christ?

People: **I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.**

Elder: What do you believe about the work of Christ?

People: **We believe for us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

How we worship: Each church has its own worship style, but worship is more than style. It begins with a heart for God through faith in Christ. It is also a dialogue between God and his people; he speaks, and we respond. Finally, worship is defined by God, not our imaginations. All that we do in worship (e.g. singing, praying, affirming our faith, preaching, etc.) comes from God's word. He promises to meet with us as we praise him in these ways.

Prayer of invocation:

Invocation means "to call upon." Even as God calls us to worship, we call upon God to fill our hearts with his Spirit to assure us that we belong to him and to help us worship him in Spirit and truth.

Affirmation of our faith:

Believing God's truth sets us free from the lies of Satan, the world, and our sinful hearts. We affirm our faith in the truth each Sunday in order to worship God, strengthen our faith, and encourage one another.

Children's Sermon:

Please come forward for the children's sermon as we sing the last verse of the hymn. The children's sermon makes the Bible accessible to young children.

Parents: You are welcome to accompany your child to the front.

Doxology: Doxology means "praise." We praise God because of his generosity to us.

Sermon: The Bible teaches us how to know Jesus and experience his saving work. The sermon is for proclaiming Jesus and how we can trust in him for salvation and live for his glory. For those who receive the Bible as the word of God, it is profitable to teach us, rebuke our sins, build us up in his grace, and train us in righteousness.

Sermons available at
www.refpres.org

† * RESPONSE OF PRAISE — *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Trinity Hymnal #216

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Matt Lucas

Children up to age 4 may be taken to Children's Church

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SERMON — *"The Unimportant Person"*

Rev. Matt Lucas

Matthew 5:38-42

[38] "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' [39] But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

SERMON OUTLINE

Jesus renounced his self-importance and calls us to do the same.

How?

1. Leave justice to lawful authorities.

2. Let go of personal retaliations.

a. Endure insults

b. Give what you do not owe

c. Serve beyond what is required

d. Share generously

3. Live under God's approval.

The Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper is a family meal in which Jesus, as the host, offers himself and all the blessings of salvation to his people. All who trust in Christ, who are baptized members of a gospel church, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live faithfully unto God are invited to partake. However, if you are not a Christian, or not prepared to partake of this meal, we encourage you to remain in your pew and spend this time seeking God in prayer.

Confession of sin: Our sin isn't just about breaking rules, it's about hurting our relationship with a loving God who gave up his Son to save us. Grace softens our hard hearts so that we freely confess our sins during a time of silent confession. We also confess our sins together as the people of God have always done in worship.

Words of assurance: God assures us that we are forgiven in Jesus Christ and dearly loved.

Parents, please pick up your children from Children's Church at this time.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

He Will Hold Me Fast

Words and Music: Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker

© 2013 Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Matthew Merker Music

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

Chorus:
He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast. (*Chorus*)

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last! (*Chorus*)

* SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

* CONFESSION OF SIN

God of Justice,
Vengeance belongs to you. But we confess our impulse to retaliate against the wrongs we have received. We have failed to turn the other cheek. We resist Christ's example, and do not entrust ourselves to your perfect judgments. Forgive us in His name. Amen.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE — 1 Peter 2:23-24

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Matt Lucas

PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 10:14–17

[14] Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. [15] I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. [16] The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? [17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way also he 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." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 6:25–35

[25] When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" [26] Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. [27] Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." [28] Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" [29] Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." [30] So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? [31] Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" [32] Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. [33] For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." [34] They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." [35] Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Notes about partaking:

We come forward in groups around the table to receive the bread and wine. We eat and drink as we receive the bread and cup.

We serve a mixed tray of wine and grape juice. The outer ring contains grape juice, while the inner rings contain wine.

All bread is free of gluten, soy, dairy, nuts, and peanuts.

Isaiah 53:1-12

[1] Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? [2] For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. [4] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. [7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. [8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? [9] And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. [10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. [11] Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. [12] Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

*** HYMN OF COMMITMENT — *Psalm 62 (My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone)***

Words and Music: Aaron Keyes | Stuart Townend

© 2007 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

My soul finds rest in God alone,
My rock and my salvation,
A fortress strong against my foes,
And I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless, and hearts may curse,
And lies, like arrows, pierce me,
I'll fix my heart on righteousness;
I'll look to Him who hears me.

I'll set my gaze on God alone,
And trust in Him completely,
With ev'ry day pour out my soul;
And He will prove His mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath,
A sigh too brief to measure,
My King has crushed the curse of death,
And I am His forever. (*Chorus*)

Chorus:

O praise Him, hallelujah,
My Delight and my Reward.
Everlasting, never failing;
My Redeemer, my God.

Find rest my soul in God alone
Amid the world's temptations.
When evil seeks to take a hold,
I'll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come, and riches go,
Don't set your heart upon them.
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven. (*Chorus*)

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen***

Trinity Hymnal #211 (v. 1)

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

POSTLUDE

Benediction: A benediction is not a prayer, but a pronouncement from God of his blessing and approval. God sends his people out to live in the strength of his blessing upon our lives.

All songs used by permission:
CCLI License #3128725
Scripture quotations are from
The Holy Bible,
English Standard Version®
(ESV®), copyright © 2001 by
Crossway,
a publishing ministry of Good
News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights
reserved.

LOOKING AHEAD

Advent Season

12/14 Third Sunday of Advent
12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24 Christmas Eve
12/25 Christmas Day

Additional Dates

12/7.....SNL @ 5:00 PM
12/8.....Flat Rock Community Group @ 6:30 PM
 Mine Gap Community Group @ 6:30 PM
12/9.....Kirkside Community Group @ 4:00 PM
12/10..... Women's Bible Study @ 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM
12/11.....Christmas Choir Practice @ 5:00 PM
12/12..... Annual Christmas Banquet @ 6:00 PM
12/13..... Upward Call @ 7:15 AM
12/14 No Sunday School
 Children's Christmas Pageant @ 10:00 AM
 Congregational Meeting following worship
12/15.....Flat Rock Community Group @ 6:30 PM
 Mine Gap Community Group @ 6:30 PM
12/16.....Kirkside Community Group @ 4:00 PM
12/18.....Christmas Choir Practice @ 5:00 PM
12/24.....Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5:00 PM
 No Nursery Provided
12/24-26 Office Closed
12/25..... Christmas Day
12/31..... New Year's Eve
1/1.....New Year's Day
1/1-2 Office Closed

Free church parking is available at the Bank of America, First Bank, Staton Law Firm, Hill Law Office, and Allstate Insurance on Church Street. Please note that the lot directly behind the Hill Law Office is paid parking. All violators will be ticketed and towed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Monthly Special Offering for December will go to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission.
2. SNL will meet tonight at 5:00 PM for Christmas Pageant practice.
3. Today is the last day to return your unwrapped Blessings in Boxes gifts. If you have questions, contact Linda Dolan.
4. Our Christmas Banquet is this Friday, December 12, 6:00 PM, at Bonclarken. The cost is \$15 per person, \$30 per couple, and \$50 per family (parents & children). Children under 5 are free. The deadline to sign up is tomorrow, December 8. You can sign up and pay online at refpres.org/calendar-events.
5. There will be a children's Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary next Sunday, December 14, at 10:00 AM.
6. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 14, following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new officers and approve the 2026 budget.
7. Pastor Matt will begin his sabbatical on January 1.
8. Sunday School for all ages will resume January 11.

Mission of the Month
Hendersonville Rescue Mission

Prayer Concerns:

- For spiritually responsive hearts of the men and women served by the ministry.
- For the staff as they give themselves in ministry.
- For AT and Lauren Cason (Songs of the Folk) as they lead chapel every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

GET CONNECTED

(Place in offering box)

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

☐ I am visiting today

I'D LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:

☐ ARP Denomination

☐ Baptism

☐ Children's Ministry

☐ Community Groups

☐ Membership

☐ Men's Ministry

☐ Missions/Outreach

☐ Music Ministry

☐ Women's Ministry

☐ Youth Ministry

☐ Receive a call from a pastor

COMMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

(Continue on the back)

OFFICERS

Session Members

Rev. Austin Bollinger
Doug Dolan
Kevin Keyzer
Rev. Matt Lucas
Ben Oldham
Glen Reid
David Taylor

Diaconate Members

Levi Friedly
Vern George
Bill Goehring
Mitch Harper
Jeremy Maestro

Bold: Denotes Officer of the Month

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Senior Pastor Rev. Matt Lucas
Associate Pastor Rev. Austin Bollinger
Custodian Michael Rhodes
Director of Children's Ministries Sallye Lucas
Director of Music Ministries Keith Rose
Librarian Charles Nicholls
Musician Chris Zhang
Office Administrator Beth Hill
Treasurer Bob Johnson

Reformation Presbyterian Church

120 7th Avenue W, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

828.698.3536 | office@refpres.org



@refpres



www.refpres.org