



the Reformed Church of Bronxville

A FAMILY OF FAITH, A HOME FOR ALL, AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



First Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* Helmut Walcha

(Throughout Advent, after the prelude, a bell will toll to usher us into a moment of silent meditation. Please use this time to prepare for worship.)

INTROIT *Arise, the Kingdom Is at Hand* Christopher Tye

Arise, the kingdom is at hand,
The King is drawing nigh;
O come with joy, thou faithful band,
To meet the Lord most high!
Look up, ye souls weighed down with care,
The Sovereign is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair,
Behold the Morning Star!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

L: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

L: The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel." The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

P: We rejoice that we too have found favor with God. God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

L: We light the first candle of the Advent season, the candle of hope.

P: Praise be to God!

*HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (v. 1 & 2) VENI EMMANUEL

*GATHERING PRAYER

**Indicates that those who are able may stand*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Reading psalms antiphonally—with one group reciting one part, and another responding—is an ancient style of worship. In our confession time throughout Advent, the congregation will speak verses of a psalm, and the choir will respond musically. Today we sing Psalm 80.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

(choral response)

- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

(choral response)

- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

(choral response)

- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

(choral response)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Advent, we enter this season of waiting
with expectant hearts and hopeful prayers.
We confess the fears that cloud our judgment,
the resentments that keep us from loving,
and the habits that hold us back.
O Come, O come, Emmanuel. Forgive us, heal us, and free us.
In your name we pray. Amen.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

All Sing:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy up - on__ us. Christ, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy up - on__ us. God the
Lord, the Sav - ior gave us, Je - sus Christ is born to save us; Lord, have
mer - cy up - on__ us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on__ us. _____

— Mark Schweizer, from *St. James Christmas Service*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Hear the good news...

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*HYMN 579

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Joseph Parry

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Good Cry

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Waterstone

ANTHEM

Excerpts from *Cantata "Wachet auf,
ruft uns die Stimme,"* BWV 140

J.S. Bach

Awake, calls the voice to us
Of the watchmen high up in the tower;
Awake, you city of Jerusalem.
Midnight the hour is named;
They call to us with bright voices;
Where are you, wise virgins?
Indeed, the Bridegroom comes;
Rise up and take your lamps,
Alleluia!
Make yourselves ready
For the wedding,
You must go to meet Him. (*Sung in German*)

SHARING OUR FRIENDSHIP AND GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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;
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.**

***HYMN 2**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

***BENEDICTION**

ADVENT

2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -

ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*CHORAL

BENEDICTION *Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

Savior of the nation, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Adolphus Hailstork

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

The Reverend Dr. Matthew Waterstone
The Reverend Samuel T. Clover
Caitlin Dowling, Director of Music and Liturgy
Slavina Zhelezova, Assistant Organist
RCB Schola

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS IN PRAYER

Church Members and Former Members:

Laura Danielsen, Karen Lichti, Charles & Kay Ridinger,
Liz Warren, Barbara Wisdom

Friends and Relatives of Church Members, Staff and Visitors:

Myron Armstrong, Andrew Barrett, Jane Benjamin, Avis Bryan, Beryl Bryan,
Lorraine & Paul Conrad, Skip Koch, Geraldine Kundstadter,
Elizabeth Landau, Gary Larscheid, Kathy Mestl, Stephen Robinson,
David & Irene Sword, LaMarse Taylor

Friends and families of the following individuals who have died:

Harvey Leff (father of Nick Leff)
Yolanda De Bisceglie
Scott Landau
Ray Price (father of Mary Gay)
Stephanie Kamfar (friend of Viktoria Dallendorfer)
Robin Lescott (mother of Beau Lescott)
Chase Griffith
Lorraine Lange

*To add a name to this prayer list, please contact The Reverend Samuel Clover,
scllover@reformedchurch.org. Names will be kept on the public prayer list for two
months, unless requested otherwise.*

Community Highlights

TODAY

First Sunday of Advent

8:30am & 10:30am, Sanctuary. While Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for Christ's birth, it's also a time, especially in this challenging year, to come together as a family of faith and live into the Christian message of hope and joy. Starting today and throughout the season, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Pastor Matt preaches.

Church School

Remote classes continue today through the end of December. The Nursery is suspended through December as well. Contact Alexis, alexis@reformedchurch.org.

Virtual Coffee Hour: On Zoom!

Immediately after congregational meeting. Though in-person coffee hour has been suspended, join us on Zoom for a half hour of conversation and a chance to reflect on today's sermon or scripture. Questions? Email Judi, jmccandless@reformedchurch.org

- To join via computer, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87930381203>.
- To join via phone, use the following: Meeting ID: 879 3038 1203.
One tap mobile: +19292056099,,87930381203# US (New York)
- For all of the above, the case-sensitive passcode is **coffee**.

Children's and Youth Handbell Choirs

Various times from 12:00-2:00pm, Choir Room. Masks and social distancing required. For complete schedules and more information, contact Daniel Potter, dpotter@reformedchurch.org, or Caitlin Dowling, cdowling@reformedchurch.org.

What Is Advent?

Sun., Nov. 29, 5:00pm, Congregational Hall. Pastor Sam will lead a presentation on the history of Advent and the symbolism of this time of preparation and penitence.

THIS WEEK

High School Youth Group

Mon., Nov. 30, 6:00-7:00pm, Cloister. Ninth-twelfth graders are invited for a "drive through" meeting experience. For info, contact cverwys@reformedchurch.org.

Advent Wisdom, Scripture and Prayers

Tue., Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 9:00-10:00am, via Zoom. Open to all who are seeking to carve out a weekly time of contemplation during this sacred season. We will reflect on the inspiring words of wisdom thinkers such as Richard Rohr and Henri J. M. Nouwen on a spiritual journey through the Advent season—a time of waiting, hope, anticipation, and celebration. Our time together will also include scripture and prayers. For more information or the Zoom link, contact Judi at jmccandless@reformedchurch.org.

Bibles, Books and Faith Conversations

Wed., Dec. 2, 9:30-10:45am, via Zoom. Join us for a series on Adam Hamilton's newest book, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the practices of worship, study, serving, giving and sharing our faith. Please purchase the book in advance. For info & the Zoom link: jmccandless@reformedchurch.org.

Children's and Youth Vocal Choirs

Wed., Dec. 2, various times from 4:00-6:00pm, Choir Room. Vocal choir rehearsals for grades 1-12. Masks and social distancing required. For complete schedules and more information, contact Caitlin Dowling, cdowling@reformedchurch.org or ext. 126.

Middle School Youth Group

Wed., Dec. 2, 6:00-7:00pm, Cloister. Sixth-eighth graders are invited to meet old friends and new. Bring friends! For info, contact cverwys@reformedchurch.org.

Wednesday Evening Prayers

Wed., Dec. 2, 6:30-7:00pm (fellowship at 6:00pm), Narthex. Connect with God and each other at this quiet service in the tradition of compline. Features a brief homily and prayer.

Weekly Parent Support Group: Where's Your Oxygen Mask?

Thu., Dec. 3, 1:00-2:00pm, via Zoom. Are you parenting a child during these challenging times? Caring for our souls is like putting on our own oxygen mask first, to best care for our children. This group will share, listen, and pray together. We are using Bishop Michael Curry's uplifting book, *Love Is the Way*, to help us "hold on to hope in troubling times." During this session we will discuss chapter 4 and the question posed: "Can love really change the world?" For more info & Zoom link, email jmccandless@reformedchurch.org.

Lectio Divina

Fri., Dec. 4 10:30am-12:00pm, via Zoom. Pastor Sam will lead. This ancient form of Bible study invites all participants to offer their insight on the upcoming Sunday's scripture passage. For information and to receive the Zoom link, email sclover@reformedchurch.org.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Gathering

Sun., Dec. 6, 5:00pm, Congregational Hall. Join us the first Sunday of each month for contemporary, come-as-you-are worship. On this second Sunday of Advent, worship leader Chris Whittaker and the band lead a celebration of this season of waiting and hope.

Christmas Concert

Sun., Dec. 13, 5:00pm, Sanctuary, free. A merry hour of live music will feature our Youth Handbell Choirs and a special performance of excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* for two pianos, featuring Caitlin Dowling and Slavina Zhelezova.

The Gift Service—A Video Production!

Sun., Dec. 20, 5:00pm, via YouTube and email. Though health regulations prevent us from hosting a live Gift Service this year, the tradition will live on in a specially produced video production debuting tonight. High school youth act out the Nativity in a whole new way!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Season of Giving Is Upon Us! Donate a Gift for a Child in Need

The “Giving Tree” is back on display, but this year it is in the Narthex. Tags with children's names and their Christmas gift requests are hanging on the tree. Simply take a tag, purchase the gift, and return it to the church office by December 14. Please be sure to wrap the gift (in festive paper—doesn't have to be white!) and place the tag on it so we can clearly identify who it's for. For those who would like to purchase a gift but can't make it to the church, contact Gretchen Pingel at ggpingel@yahoo.com for a way to do so electronically. The gifts will be given to children from Westhab's Dayspring Community Center and Parkledge Apartments who have participated in Saturday playgroups at our church. Questions? Email Gretchen at the address above.

Pandemic Pals

This is a new, intergenerational initiative intended to create connections during Covid-time. We will be pairing families with children with other church members to encourage new friendships and provide support. Once matched, participants can decide what works best—whether this means being pen-pals, dropping off treats, having socially-distanced visits or running simple errands. We ask for at least a once-a-month commitment through the winter. To participate, contact Judi McCandless, jmccandless@reformedchurch.org, or ext. 120.

Christmas Memorials: Donate Online or By Coupon by December 6

We are now making plans for the annual church Christmas decorations—lights, trees and poinsettias. If you care to make a contribution in memory or in honor of loved ones, whose names will be printed in the bulletins for December 20, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, you may donate via our website, using the following instructions BY DECEMBER 6:

Go to WWW.REFORMEDCHURCH.ORG
↓
Click "GIVE" dropdown menu
↓
Click "FLOWERS & MEMORIALS"
↓
Click "FLOWER & MEMORIAL DONATION"
and complete the online form
↓

The screenshot shows a donation form with the following fields and options:

- I'd like to give \$
- by Credit/Debit to 2020 ANNUAL GIVING
- to 2021 ANNUAL GIVING
- to DEACONS FUND
- to DONATION (One Time Gift)
- to FLOWERS (Christmas Poinsettias)
- to REFORMED (Pastor's Office)
- card number
- name on card
- email address
- street address
- city
- state
- zip
- one time gift
- Comments (optional)

Use the "comments" field (above) to fill in the name(s) of your loved ones.

Christmas Memorials: Donate the Old-Fashioned Way

We are now making plans for the annual church Christmas decorations—lights, trees and poinsettias. If you care to make a contribution in memory or in honor of loved ones, whose names will be printed in the bulletins for December 20, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please return this form to the Church office, attn: Carla Savage, by Friday, December 6.

Please accept this contribution of \$ _____ payable to The Reformed Church.

In memory or in honor of (please print)

By:

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Waterstone, Senior Minister, ext. 131 | mwaterstone@reformedchurch.org

The Rev. Samuel Clover, Associate Minister, ext. 134 | sclover@reformedchurch.org

Caitlin Dowling, Director of Music and Liturgy, ext. 126 | cdowling@reformedchurch.org

Christian Verwys, Student Pastor, ext. 124 | cverwys@reformedchurch.org

Judith McCandless, Director of Member Engagement, ext. 120 | jmccandless@reformedchurch.org

Margaret Murtagh, Director, Nursery School, 914-337-6332, ext. 143 | margaret@reformedchurch.org

Alan Zanzano, Chief Operating Officer, ext. 117 | azanzano@reformedchurch.org

Nick Leff, Facility Supervisor, ext. 149 | nleff@reformedchurch.org

* Mary Mackintosh, Director of Missional Engagement | mmackintosh@reformedchurch.org

* Alexis Mastromarino, Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 118 | alexis@reformedchurch.org

* Slavina Zhelezova, Assistant Organist & Assistant Director of Children's Music
szhelezova@reformedchurch.org

* P.J. DeGenaro, Communications Associate, ext. 112 | pdegenaro@reformedchurch.org

* Janice Sachtjen, Executive Administrative Assistant, ext. 132 | jsachtjen@reformedchurch.org

* *indicates part-time staff, 15-28 hours per week*

CONSISTORY

ELDERS Bill Ferguson, Beth Fulton, James Hoch, Dan Johnson, Tony Lemberger, Gary Reetz, Doug Sesler, Paul Shoemaker, John Torell, Rosanne Welshimer (Chair)

DEACONS Lela Agnew, Donald Bringle, Brian Buttigieg, Joe French, Fran Harris, Jessica Hogue, Jennifer Lescott, Mark Liggitt, Paul Muir (Chair), Amy Parsons, Gretchen Pingel, Laura Redican, Jenny Shively, Kate Milliken-Vaughey

OFFICERS The Reverend Dr. Matthew Waterstone, President; Rosanne Welshimer, Vice President; Jim Hoch, Treasurer; Dan Johnson and Jenny Shively, Co-Clerks of Consistory

Pastoral care: If you or someone you know needs help, please contact one of our pastors. For professional counseling, contact our partner, The Counseling Center, at 914-793-3388 or www.counselingcenter.org.