

**St. John's Reformed Church
December 7, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent**

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements and Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"

*Call to Worship

Family of faith, God is at work! **God is healing and creating,**
redeeming and dreaming, **calling and sending,** listening and loving.
Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

*Hymn *God Reigns! Earth Rejoices* #91 v. 1-4

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Advent Wreath Lighting

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

**We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people
shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the
church sings together.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world,
peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Candle of Peace

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn *All Earth Is Waiting* #57 v. 1 & 2

Prayer of Confession

**On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have
every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom,
that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fin-
gers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever
come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?"
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is
shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open
hearts we pray, amen.**

Moment of Silence

Kyrie Eleison "**Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**"

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law: Wait for the Lord and in the Word of the Lord
put your hope. Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who
watch for the morning. There is no darkness with the Lord. O Israel,
hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
redemption and no darkness at all. -based on Psalm 130:5-7

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Musical Meditation

The Word of God in Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson from the Old Testament: **Isaiah 43:19-21** (p.672-673)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn *Looking Out a Prison Window* (insert in your bulletin)

*Lesson from the Gospel: **Matthew 11:1-11** (p.11)

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

* Affirmation of Faith:

**We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.
We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.**

**So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.
We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable
love. So still, we believe. Amen.**

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

The Offering & Offertory

*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world. You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper & Introduction to Communion

Communion Hymn: *Let Us Break Bread Together* #837

Use "to the Rising Sun"

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 2 #811

(outer rings are wine, inner rings are juice)

Thanksgiving After Communion

Prayers for the People of God

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Prayer Response *Threefold Amen* **Amen, Amen, Amen**

*Hymn *Soon and Very Soon* #482 v. 1-4 (4th verse repeats verse 1)

Benediction

*Congregational Amen **"Go Now in Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with us each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know he will guide us in all we do.

Go now in love, and show we believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*Postlude

*Indicates congregation to stand if able.

