

St. John's Reformed Church
December 21, 2025
Christmas Youth & Children's Service

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements and Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum **All God's people-babies, kids, teenagers, adults and saints:
Come and worship!**

*Call to Worship

Here in worship-we pray together, we stand together, we sing together,
we listen together.

**Here in worship-we are not alone. So when life gives you reason to
grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment. We are not alone.
Let us worship our with-us God.**

*Hymn *What Child is This* #95 v. 1-3

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Advent Wreath Lighting

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

**We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door.
We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call
after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional
acts of empathy. We see love all around us.**

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

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this
flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here.

Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

Candle of Love **Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

*Hymn *All Earth is Waiting* #57 v. 1-4

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

When you were afraid, did I stay by your side? Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone? When you were afraid, did I choose solidarity?

Did I see your fear, or did I only see mine?

**Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God
offers grace, and we do too. So take a deep breath, and let's start again.**

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Now we must ask-when you were afraid, did we stay by your side?

**Did we offer our hands, or did we leave you alone? When you were
afraid, did we choose solidarity? Did we see your fear? Or did we only
see ours?**

Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God
offers grace, and I do too. So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

**Thank you. Your mercy is a gift. We accept your grace and would
love to start again. May it be so, with God's help. Alleluia, amen.**

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.***

The Word of God In Proclamation and Response:
Their Christmas Story

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 1:5-13

Zechariah

Hymn *Away in a Manger* #86 v. 1

Matthew 11:1-11

John

Responding to the Word: On one strip, write something that you have
almost run out of hope with. Maybe it's something you see in the news
everyday - maybe it's something very personal.

Hymn *Away in a Manger* #86 v. 2

Luke 1:26-39

Mary

Responding to the Word: On the second strip, write the name of a person
who helps you be courageous.

Hymn *Away in a Manger* #86 v. 3

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph

Responding to the Word: On your last strip, write something you can do
to further God's story of hope in the world.

*Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #88 v. 1-4

Liturgists/Actors/Readers: St. John's Reformed Church children & youth

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

The Offering and Hope Offering

The first plates that are passed by deacons or elders are for your normal tithes and offerings.

The second baskets passed by the youth are for you to place your strips of hope in. Please do so at this time.

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 wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the ultimate gift-Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* #101 v. 1-3

A Word on Hope

*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.

