

Celebration of Christmas

SAVIOR
OF THE WORLD



December 24, 2021 ✝ 5:00 p.m.

You can use this booklet for worship **in the sanctuary and at home**. Most of the liturgy and hymns are from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW), *All Creation Sings* (ACS), and other resources published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You can join worship online and find other devotional resources at www.ReformationDC.org/worship.

We love and protect one another as we worship God. Therefore, when you are inside the church building you must wear a mask and remain physically distant from people in another household. Also, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer and follow the instructions of the greeters/ushers. Everyone can sing and join in speaking the **bold** portions of the liturgy.

If you or a neighbor need **pastoral care**, please call the church office at **202-543-4200 Ext. 11**. The voicemail will have instructions about how to contact a pastor in case of an emergency. If you are interested in **baptism and membership** at Reformation, please email Office@ReformationDC.org and our administrative assistant can direct you to the right place!

Reformation honors the **Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples** upon whose land we live and worship. We are committed to solidarity with the American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association. Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have been part of ReconcilingWorks, a national **Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry**.

Tonight's worship service, The ABCs of Christmas, was written by Pastor Erin Klassen, from the Young Clergy Women project. It was updated by Pastor Hillary Watson.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Introduction

This is a story you might know well together with something else we know well, the alphabet. We begin with **A** for an angel, Gabriel, who began the story with a greeting to Mary:

*“Rejoice, favored one! God is with you!
Don’t be afraid. God honors you. Look!
You will conceive and give birth to a son,
And you will name him Jesus.”*

Please rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

The impossible is about to happen in a stable.
The people who have walked in gloom have seen a great light;
**Those who lived in a land of deep gloom,
on them has the light shined!**

This is the night when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.
**This is the night when God embraced humanity
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

verse 1



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Greeting

The grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

After a brief silence for our personal prayers, the minister continues.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

Christmas Gospel I

Luke 2:1-4

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

B is for Bethlehem, where Joseph was from.

It's where the story ends, but not where it begun.

It begins in Galilee, a po-dunk little place
where Joseph and Mary had just got engaged.

C is for census (that means a counting of all people)

from babies to grandpas, even their cows and their sheeple.

Bethlehem is the city where the king held the census.

Everyone went there, even though it didn't make senses.

D is for donkey. Click-clack his feet sounded

as he carried the family on their way to be counted.

E is for exhausted, that's how everyone felt when they arrived—
hungry and sleepy, but glad they survived.

F is for family: Mary, Joseph, and their baby son
both human and divine, born in Bethlehem.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Christmas Gospel II

Luke 2:5-7

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

G is for the Good News Jesus shares with the earth:
God's kingdom has come and conquered sin's curse.
But I'm getting ahead of myself, that's what happens next.
On Christmas Jesus is just a baby, in his manger at rest.

H is for herds, all the animals that were present at the stable.
Even the shepherds heard the news and ran as fast as they were able!
They shouted “Hallelujah!” for Jesus is born!
“Let’s run to the stable to arrive before morn!”

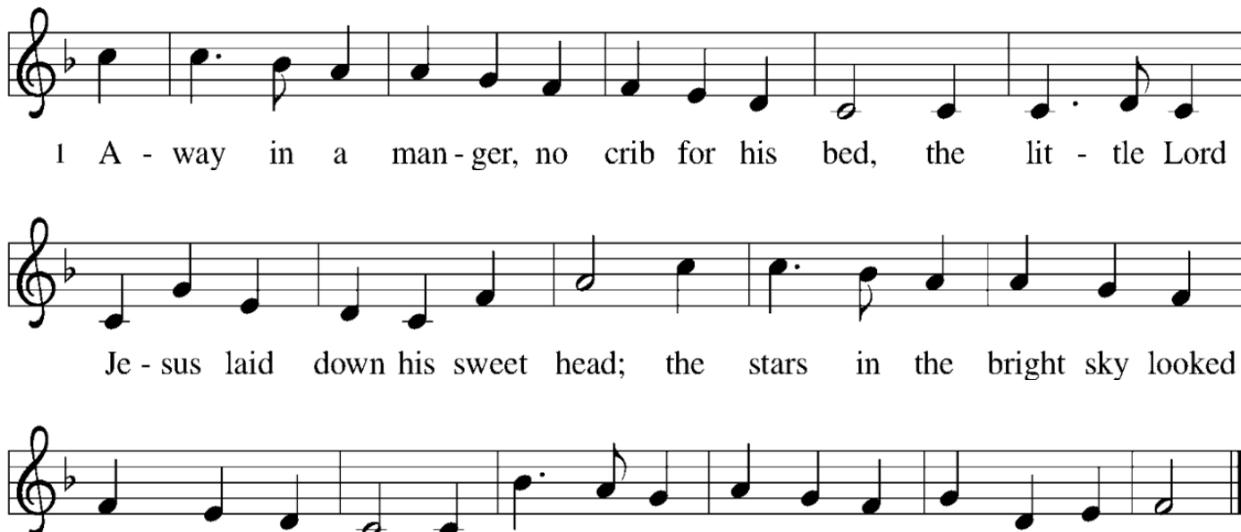
I is for our imaginations, stirred by this story!
We praise God—what amazing goodness and glory.

J is for the joy that Jesus will bring
healing and helping every little thing.
He will work miracles, yes he will!
And in God’s name, miracles happen still.

K is for kindness the innkeeper showed to the family
in his small stable Mary and Joseph slept soundly.
There was no other place to stay, no room at the inn—
Bethlehem was crowded, filled up to the brim.

Hymn

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Christmas Gospel III

Luke 2:8-14

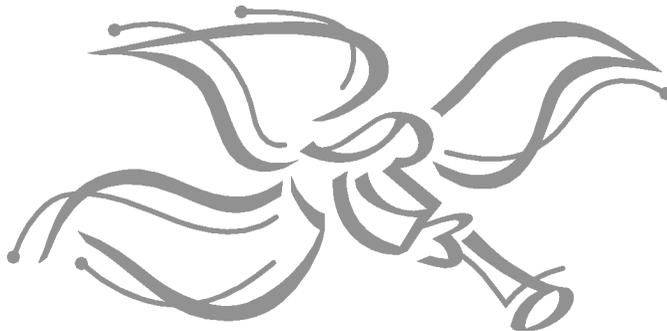
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

L is for love, for God so loved creation
He sent his son Jesus as a sign of salvation.
God loves us in all our quirks and our faults
God has big plans for us—do you hear the call?

M is for manger, that's where you put food for cows—
but see on this Christmas, Jesus is sleeping there now.
M is also for magi—sometimes we call them wise men.
But we don't really know—maybe some were women.

N is for Noel, another word for Christmas. It means new birth.
And that's what Jesus did, bringing joy to the earth!

Please rise in body or spirit for our next songs, prayers, and sharing of the peace.



Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all creation.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Silent prayer....

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Silent prayer....

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Silent prayer....

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are experiencing hunger, loneliness, or homelessness.

Silent prayer....

Blessed are you, Child of Mary. You share our humanity.
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Silent prayer....

Blessed are you, Child of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Silent prayer....

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.

O is for offering. The magi brought gifts for the baby:
even gold and perfume, though it sounds a little crazy.
The perfume was frankincense, it smells very sweet.
Better than the stable, which smelled like cows' feet!

P is for prayer and pondering and praise—
why is it that God lived among humans in those days?
We ask, what wondrous love could this be
that God is born in flesh, to guide you and heal me?

Q is for quiet, the deep peace Christmas brings.
It's a time to reflect and think about holy things.
I take a deep breath—take one with me.
And think about baby Jesus as I sit and I breathe.

Christmas Gospel IV

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

R is for revelation, which is a pretty big word.
But it means God guides us, we don't have to be scared.
It means God shows us the things we don't know
and God will lead us on the right path to go.

S is for surprise, it was what no one expected
Who thought that our God, so awesome and respected
Would come to earth as a baby, so soft and small?
This baby our strength so we won't stumble or fall.

T is for trust, that's the confidence we have in God
who will bring us safely through the rough ground we trod.

U is for unity. That means you next to me
and all people together living in harmony.
We might still argue once in a while,
but when we think of God, we all smile.

V is for vulnerable, a little child who needs care.
Who can he depend on? Will you be there?
Jesus will grow up to spread God's wonderful news—
but only because his parents were there to help him through.

W is for wonder. What do you think?
If you listen real close, can you hear God speak?

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Sending Prayer

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In Christ's light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In Christ's light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In Christ's light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of Christ's life
cast away the gloom of injustice, greed, and gluttony in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Make us bold, O merciful God, to call you Abba/Imma*:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**In ancient Aramaic, the everyday language of Galileans, Abba means father, dad, or papa. Imma means mother, mom, or mama. Jesus taught his disciples to boldly address God as intimately as they would call upon their beloved parent.*

Candle Lighting

As we sing "Silent Night", you are invited to light additional or special candles in your home. In the sanctuary, the ministers will light their candles and others around the manger from the Christ candle.

Silent Night, Holy Night



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,
✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

Amen.

X is for X-mas. The x comes from the Greek.
It stands for Χριστός—Christ is the one that we seek.

Y is for you! Here to celebrate and adore.
As we worship Christ, let's celebrate some more.
This day is about Jesus who taught us to love—
not about presents or toys or that stuff.
Presents are great, but what makes them better?
Having love, peace, and joy all together.

Z is for zeal, the passion we feel inside
when think of that silent, holy night.
God calls us today to rise up and share
the good news of Jesus with everyone, everywhere!



Please rise in body or spirit.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Sending Forth

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata

C.M. Widor



(Coloring Page on the next page)



JOY TO THE WORLD

Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Jonathan Mennutti (12/21); Roger Dahlin (12/23)

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:

Alesia & Stephen Frerichs (12/22)

WE PRAY FOR ...

Kirsten Petree and her family, as they mourn the death of her father, Charles Dettor. Afghan residents who live in fear and violence; for all refugees seeking safety.

For the family and friends of Robert Pfahl, as they celebrate his life and grieve his death. He is at peace.

For the friends and family of Patrick Kline, who died in a car accident, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life. He was the friend of Will Anderson's roommate.

Bryan Anderson and his family, as they mourn the death of his grandmother, Anita Anderson.

Marilyn Lilyquist, Candace Lilyquist's mother, for health and healing.

Rusty Lilyquist, Candace Lilyquist's brother, for health and healing.

Betty, Andy Weaver's mother, as she recovers from major surgery.

Karen, Andy Weaver's sister, that she has continued healing.

Jennifer Novak, as she continues her healing.

Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.

For those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.

For the Anacostia River.

Members, friends and neighbors here and around the world suffering from Covid-19.

David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law, who is living with lymphoma.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service:

Deborah, Jonathan, and Sophia Mennuti, Matt Oskam, Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson, Kim Loewecke, and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for:

Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick, Bernice Hoveland, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and Gloria Wolf.

**Please email your prayer requests to the administrative assistant
at Office@ReformationDC.org.**



The poinsettias in the chancel are given to the glory of God!

Names are listed alphabetically by honoree's last name.

In memory of David Arwood by Dina Finkel

In memory of Helen Au by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Louise Baker by Kay and Larry King

In memory of my mother, Therese Binde, by Scott Binde

In memory of his wife, Susan Blackman, by Paul Blackman

In memory of Susan Blackman by Kay and Larry King

In memory of her grandmother, Jennie Bomberger by Julie Hasler

In memory of Margaret Bush by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Freida Bysath by Emily André

In memory of Alice Carey by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Hildegard and Parry Carlson by Karen and Parry Carlson

In memory of Joanne and Paul Cochrane by Karen and Parry Carlson

In memory of Patrick Dolan by Larry King

In memory of my father, Donald Erickson by Jennifer Erickson

In memory of Daniel P. Ernst by Joy Ernst

In memory of Carol Grawey by Karen and Rob Cowden

In memory of David Greaves by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Mary and Karl Gruel, Sr. by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Teresa Hamlin by Larry King

In honor of Elizabeth and Morgan Hann by Roger and Beverly Dahlin

In memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L Hasler, Jr. by Julie Hasler

In honor of Suzanne Hazard by Karen and Rob Cowden

In honor of Pastor Ben Hogue's leadership and care by Dina Finkel

In memory of Nina Josephs by Dina Finkel

In memory of the Reverend Dr. Arnold F. Keller by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Geneva Blackwelder Kendall by Kay and Larry King

In memory of J.B. King by Emily André

In memory of their mother – Verna E. (Betty) King by Kay and Larry King

In memory of their brother – Corliss F. King II by Kay and Larry King

In memory of their Aunts – Leanore M. King, Alberta J. McClain, Rachael L. McClain, Ruth Rabits and Esther Snare by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Dorothy Leonard by Tina O'Connell

In honor of Freda and Walter Lilyquist by Candace Lilyquist

In honor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation members by Roger and Beverly Dahlin

In memory of their Aunt and Uncle – William and Martha McClain by Kay and Larry King

In honor of Memorial Drive Lutheran Church (Houston, TX)'s faithful people of God by Roger and Beverly Dahlin

In memory of Reverend Bryan "Bud" Myers by Larry King

In memory of Lillian Nalley by Kay and Larry King

In memory of Garland O'Connell by Tina O'Connell

In memory of Leah and Frank Papkey, Jr. by Karen and Rob Cowden

In memory of Robert Pfahl by Grace and Wayne Krumwiede

In memory of Mary Rawlings by Kay King

In memory of Wally Rossmiller by Julie Hasler

In memory of Bruce K. Sasser by Kay King

In honor of the Stauderman/Robb family, Helen Stauderman, and all who cared for Jennifer Novak in her year of trials by Karen and Parry Carlson

In memory of Stephen and Norma Staunton by Caitlin Jacobs and Paul Staunton

In memory of J. Gordon Swanson by Joy Ernst

In memory of John G. Swanson by Joy Ernst

In memory of Mike's mother, Claire Thompson by Michael Thompson and Peter Hillman

In memory of Estelle and John Welke by Candace Lilyquist

In memory of his godson – Ronald West, Jr. by Larry King

In memory of Wayne E. Whigham by Larry King

In memory her great aunt, Meda White by Julie Hasler

In honor of Pastor Mike Wilker's leadership and care by Dina Finkel

In honor of the Wilker family, with gratitude for their service and amazing leadership at LCOR by Karen and Parry Carlson

In memory of his mother, Beulah Winter by Thomas Winter

In memory of his brother, Donald Winter by Thomas Winter

In memory of his father, Frank Winter by Thomas Winter

The Trees and Greens in the Church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of their mother, Verna E. (Betty) King by Kay and Larry King.

May God bless you with the courage of Mary and
the graciousness of
Joseph this Advent and Christmas season.

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders...

Presiding Minister	Pastor Michael Wilker
Assisting Minister	Skye Carlson
Reader	Karen Carlson
ABCs Reader	Angelina Ballerina and Jessica Snowden
Livestream Tech Team	Christine Goepfert, Andy Weaver
Altar Care	Emma Harrington
Greeter/Ushers	Stephanie Fouse, Mat Fouse
Cantor	Gabrielle Levy, soprano



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A Reconciling in Christ congregation

Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Nursery, 8:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Lead Pastor	Pastor Michael Wilker wilker@ReformationDC.org	President: Jessica Snowden
Director of Music & Arts	Paul Leavitt pdleavitt0918@gmail.com	Vice President: Emily Andre
Community Host	Christine Goepfert space@ReformationDC.org	Secretary: Elizabeth Wirick
Director of Operations	Jarrod Jabre jabre@ReformationDC.org	Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard
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