



The congregation is invited to read/sing the **bold font**.

*\*Indicates the congregation may stand unannounced.*

*Amplification devices to assist with hearing are available at the sound booth.*

# THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE “Three Christmas Carols” by Milton Detjen

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Into the mess of the world, **God came—bringing hope.**  
Among broken places and spaces, **God came—offering peace.**  
Through unexpected and unlikely people, **God came—spreading joy.**  
Into fragile flesh and bone, **God came—the fullness of love.**  
Our God came. Our God is coming! **And we are waiting!**  
Let us worship God.

\*SONG OF WORSHIP “God Almighty, We Are Waiting”  
Tune: #358 BEECHER

**God Almighty, we are waiting  
for our savior to return.**  
**As we hear these Advent stories,**  
**may our hearts within us burn.**  
**Prophets speaking, angels singing,**  
**shepherds trembling at Christ’s birth.**  
**As we look for signs and wonders,**  
**help us see you here on earth.**

**God Incarnate, we are waiting  
for the fullness of your work.**  
**Looking back and looking forward**  
**to when Christ returns to earth.**  
**As we live into your gospel,**  
**may our lives point to your truth.**  
**Sharing good news with all people,**  
**neighbor, stranger; healed, renewed.**

**God the Spirit, we are waiting  
for your presence here and now.**  
**Humbled by your call upon us,**  
**we will worship and bow down.**  
**We are active in our waiting.**  
**We are patient in our hope**  
**for your presence here among us,**  
**for a waiting world made whole.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who is with us as we wait—  
When we are weary from grief and worry, unable to see a way forward,  
**Advent God, strengthen our patience with renewed hope.**

When our differences leave us disconnected and divided from others,  
**Advent God, stir up our courage to pursue peace.**

When we are stuck in cycles of cynicism and suspicion,  
**Advent God, rekindle our capacity for joy.**

When we are dismissive and disinterested  
in the needs of our neighbors, near and far,  
**Advent God, reawaken our hearts to the fullness of your love.**

*A period of silence for personal reflection and confession..*

As this advent light sparks and spreads each week,  
**may your Spirit spark and spread**  
**the hope of Christ’s presence through us**  
**as we actively wait for the fullness of time.**  
**In the name of Jesus, God with us, we pray . . . amen.**

## ASSURANCE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

# THE WORD OF GOD

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Congregation, bless your children.  
**You are God’s beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.**

\*SONG OF PREPARATION #153—v. 1 “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

SCRIPTURE & SERMON Matthew 1:1-6  
It’s Complicated . . . Jesus’ Family Tree: Ruth

## INVITATION, INSTRUCTIONS, & THE COMMUNION PRAYER

It is you, O God, who invites us to this table and into your presence.  
**Yet, it is not just in bread and cup that you are present with us.**  
You have been living and active in the world throughout time,  
**partnering with unexpected people to bring about**  
**your plan and purposes:**

like Judah, full of faults and foibles,  
**yet, offered unimaginable grace;**  
like Ruth, once considered an outsider,  
**became a sign of God’s wide welcome;**  
like Mary and Joseph, ordinary people,  
**called to an extraordinary task.**

We are gathered up with Judah, Ruth, Joseph, and Mary along with all your  
people of every time and place into one common story. Like so many who have  
gone before, we join our voices in advent song, actively waiting and watching  
for your arrival among us again:

*Singing “Come Thou Long-Expected” v. 2*  
**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,**  
**born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**  
**By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;**  
**by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

God with us, may this bread and cup nourish us for the work of reconciliation  
as we long for the fullness of your coming.

**Make us, while many, one.**  
**Make us, though broken, whole.**  
**Make us, despite death, alive.**  
And so we pray: **Come, Emmanuel, come. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome to participate in communion.*  
*For those participating, please exit toward the center aisle, come forward*  
*to a serving station, and return to your seat via the outside aisles.*  
*The station off to the right of the center is gluten free.*  
*Elders will also be serving on the north and south sides of the balcony.*  
*Unable to come forward? Please raise your hand so an elder can come serve you.*

# THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING tune: Old Hundredth; text: Ruth Duck

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;**  
**Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;**  
**Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;**  
**All glory, honor to God’s name! Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**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.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE #199 “Carol at the Manger”  
*FoodShare offerings and food donations may be brought forward to the*  
*basket in the center aisle at this time. FoodShare is a SRC ministry that*  
*supports those in our area who are experiencing food insecurity.*

## \*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG “My Friends, May You Grow in Grace”  
*The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward the center aisle,*  
*blessing one another in song.*

**My friends, may you grow in grace,**  
**and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.**  
**My friends, may you grow in grace,**  
**and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.**  
**To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.**  
**To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.**

\*POSTLUDE “In Dulci Jubilo” by J. S. Bach

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A **SECOND**  
Actually, it may take 60 seconds, but check out the info below.

ARE YOU A GUEST TODAY?

Welcome--we're so glad you've come to worship with us! If you're looking for a church to call your own, we hope you'll return another Sunday to get to know us even better. SRC values history and tradition as well as creativity and innovation. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. Most of all, we're a congregation where anyone can belong just as they are. God welcomes all. And so do we.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SRC EMAILS?

Please email Rachel at [rachel@2refpella.org](mailto:rachel@2refpella.org) to sign up to receive SRC's weekly newsletter (*On Second Thoughts*) and other important announcements. Archived copies of the weekly newsletters are on SRC's website.

PREFER TO GIVE ONLINE?

Secure online giving is now available through our financial record-keeping program (Aplos) and its payment processing provider (Stripe). You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. Access SRC's online giving page using this QR code or by going to <https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/SecondReformedChurch/General>. Thank you for your generous support of SRC's mission!



THANK YOU

We are grateful for Marcia Carter, who shared her talents on the piano during communion this morning. Thank you, Marcia, for leading us in worship!

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 7, 2025

TODAY

- 9:45 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Congregational Meeting
- 11:00 am Advent Program Practice
- 2:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 4:00 pm Handbell Choir
- 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group

TUESDAY

- 2:00 pm Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation

WEDNESDAY

- 5:45 pm Advent Program Practice
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:45 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Happy Birthday, Jesus Party (Lower Level)

**Greeters:** Doug & Elaine Baker, Sherril Graham, Cheri Scherr, Cyndi Boertje  
Next Week: Doug & Karen Saubert, Sherril Graham, Mark & Kathy Thompson

**Nursery:** Anna Allen, Kristi Balk  
Next Week: Liz Wilner & Neriah Hardeman

**Storyteller:** Family Worship  
Next Week: Advent Program

**Barista:** Pete & Cindy Peterson  
Next Week: Sara Hefflefinger

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Second Reformed Church

SECOND  
REFORMED  
CHURCH



Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025 - 9:45 am