



## **First Reformed Church, Schenectady**

In-person worship has been placed  
on pause. While you worship at home,  
feel free to sing!

### **First Sunday after Christmas December 27, 2020**

Liturgists: Lynn Carman Bodden and Daniel Carlson

Church Musician: Max Caplan

Special Music: Andy Chestnut

Video: Dave Pizzolo; Sound: Nathan Schied

PRELUDE

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Most gracious and loving God... that we too may sing with joy the  
angels' song:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

God of mercy...that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us.

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,**

**cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell,**

**O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Open our hearts that we may receive... for the earth's children  
with the love you have for us all.

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Love's pure light.**

**Radiant beams from thy holy face,**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

O God of peace... revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

**All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin, and never cease.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *(spoken and signed)*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Away in a Manger*

### CAROL

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

#31

**Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of  
righteousness!**

**Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!**

### CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#23

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

SCRIPTURE

*Luke 2.22-40*

READING

*For All Who Give You a Face*

OFFERTORY SOLO

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And mild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And the bells are ringing.  
Like a choir they're singing  
In my heart I hear them:  
Peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

But the bells are ringing.  
Like a choir they're singing

Does anybody hear them?  
Peace on earth, good will to men.

Then rang the bells more loud and deep:  
God is not dead nor does he sleep.  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.

Then ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day.  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And with our hearts we'll hear them.  
Do you hear the bells? They're ringing.  
Like the angels singing.  
Open up your hearts and hear them.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

**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

*Joy to the World*

#40

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and  
nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world  
with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

+ + +

### **Prayers of the People**

We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember our church members who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Helen H. Masjoan, R. Ned Landon,  
Fran Zentmire, Jean Collins, Jean  
Bowman, Doris Willard, Mildred  
Altwater, Thomas Taft, Almy  
Coggeshall, Burton Dearing, Esther  
Eveleth

### **Church Offerings**

As we worship virtually, we continue to welcome your offerings to support the ministry of First Reformed Church! All types of church offerings, including this year's Christmas Offering to Center for Community Justice, may be made online at [1streformed.com](http://1streformed.com), dropped off during office hours or mailed. Thank you!

