

SIX MILE RUN REFORMED CHURCH

Celebrating God's Diversity

Order of Worship - December 21st, 2025 - Communion & Fourth Sunday of Advent

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

***Advent Candle Lighting**

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

We will worship the Messiah who saves us, His people, from our sins!
Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn: "Savior of the Nations"**

RED #74

Words of Assurance and Call to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

O Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from You, neglecting the welfare of Your creation; ignoring the plight of Your image bearers throughout the world; trampling on the creatures and the plants You have made; taking from the Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the spirituality You've planted within us. Forgive us, as we know You already have in Christ. Lead us to a more gracious life; in Your compassion, turn us to Your way; restore us, O Lord God of hosts, and let Your face shine upon us. Amen.

Words of Reassurance

***Gloria:**

RED #83

Glory to God, glory to God in the highest Heaven
Peace be on earth, peace be on earth, alleluia, alleluia!

***Summary of the Law and Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn of Longing:**

RED #61

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Let us prepare for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of the Holy Scriptures. **Speak Lord, for Your servants are listening.**

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSVUE)

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

***Hymn of Meditation: “O Come, O Come Immanuel”**

RED #61

GOD SENDS US OUT

Call to Self-Offering: *Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings*

***Doxology:**

RED #953

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel,
for he alone does wondrous works: His glorious deeds excel;
for he alone does wondrous works: his glorious deeds excel.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gathering of Joys and Concerns “Thanks be to God” or “Lord, hear our Prayer”

Communion, Prayers of the People, and The Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn: “God Reigns! Earth Rejoices”**

RED #91

***Benediction**