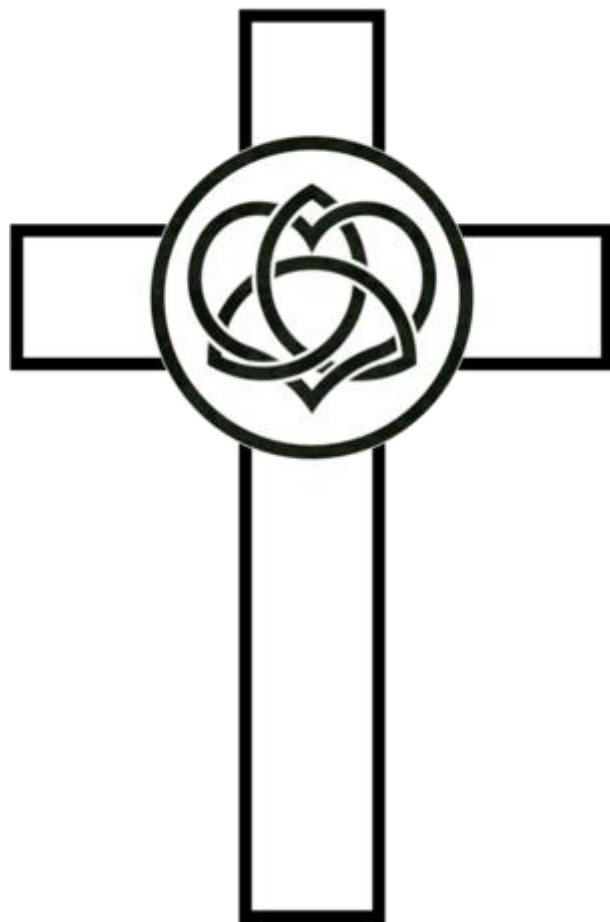


# *Grace Reformed*



*December 7, 2025*

We are a church that loves the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through that gospel, by repentance and faith in Christ, are seeking to grow in love for our Triune God, his church, and our neighbors.

## Welcome!

We are pleased to have you with us this morning as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We believe worship is about gathering together to meet with the Triune God. During worship we believe that God:

- **Draws** near to expose our sins so that we can repent of them
- **Forgives** our sins so that we can be reconciled to him and each other
- **Pours** his love into our hearts
- **Comforts** the mourning
- **Strengthens** the weak
- **Heals** the broken
- **Encourages** the sorrowful
- **Deepens** our faith
- **Refreshes and Renews** our love and obedience to his Word.

Our worship follows a dialogue format, where God speaks to us through his Bible and reflections on his Word, and we respond to him in different ways like listening, singing, praying, repenting, confessing, etc. In this “holy conversation” Jesus tells us about himself, and about us, and about how we can grow closer to him and look more like him in our daily lives.

Therefore, so that we can focus on what God is doing and saying, we ask that you if you are not using your cellphone to read the Bible and access the liturgy to please turn off or silence them during the worship service; or if you are using them to limit yourself to those activities (airplane mode is helpful with this).

Also, meeting with God is not just for adults! Jesus welcomes all of us, including little children. If you have children, we are delighted to have them worship with us in the worship service! We encourage you to help them worship and quietly answer questions they may have during worship. If you are new to church and don't know the answers, or want help in how to encourage their participation, you are very much invited to speak with our pastor or one of the elders. We very much want you and your children to be able to understand and participate in worship as much as possible.

To help you follow along more easily, please note that ***bold italicized text*** are words that we say out loud together. Headings have an \* behind them show places where we invite you to stand with us if you are able. Any songs not in the public domain are covered by our CCLI. License No. 11554939.

## Our Children Led Hymn: Do Not Fear

### Verse 1

Humble virgin, arise and take heart  
You've been chosen to carry a son  
Give no heed to the trembling inside  
For the wonder has only begun

### Chorus

Do not fear, do not fear  
The child you will hold is the Savior foretold drawing near  
Do not fear

### Verse 2

Lowly shepherds, look up and take heart  
See the glory of heaven burn bright  
Hear the anthem of joy and good news  
Hope has dawned in a stable tonight

### Chorus 2

Do not fear, do not fear  
The child in the hay is the Ancient of Days drawing near  
Do not fear

### Verse 3

Weary children, be still and take heart  
Every longing you feel is a cry  
For the rest He has offered to all  
Come to Him, for His burden is light

### Chorus 3

Do not fear, do not fear  
The God who redeems you and ever will keep you is near  
Do not fear

### **Meditation Verse and Prelude: Isaiah 9:2**

[During the prelude ask the Triune God to help you worship him through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.]

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

### **\*God's Greeting: Jude 2**

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

### **\*God's Call to Worship: Hebrews 4:14-16**

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

***For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **\*Our Song and Prayer of Approach: #194 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

### **God's Call to Confession: 1 John 2:7-11**

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

### **Our Corporate Confession of Sin:**

[After this, a time of silent, personal confession follows, where we can confess our individual sins individually]

***Almighty God, you have delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved Son. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. We confess that we still sin against you and choose darkness rather than light. Strengthen us with the Spirit's power to walk in a manner worthy of our Heavenly Father, who made peace for us and with us by the blood of Jesus' cross. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.***

### **God's Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:1-2**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

## **Our Corporate Response of Praise: 2 Timothy 2:11-13**

*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.*

You have nothing to hide: *I am forgiven in Christ!*

You have nothing to prove: *I am righteous in Christ!*

You have nothing to fear: *I am loved in Christ!*

## **\*Our Song of Assurance: #204 Away in a Manger**

## **Offerings of Thanks, Praise and Trust: 2 Corinthians 9:10-11**

(If you would like to give, you may do so through our online giving portal, by mail, or during Sunday worship)

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

## **Sung during the offering: #660 O God beyond All Praising**

## **Our Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **\*Our Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 56-58**

Q. What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?

*A. I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life.*

*Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.*

Q. How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?

*A. Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.*

Q. How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you?

*A. Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.*

## **God's Word Read and Proclaimed**

Pastor/Speaker: Brett Mahlen

Text: Mark 14:32-40

Sermon: Sorrow unto Death

## **Our Prayer of Dedication**

### **\*Our Song of Response: #224 Go Tell It on the Mountain**

## **The Lord's Supper**

We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders.

### **\*God's Benediction: 2 Thessalonians 3:16**

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all.  
Amen.

### **\*Our Song of Hope: #223 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks v6**

All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,  
begin and never cease, begin and never cease.