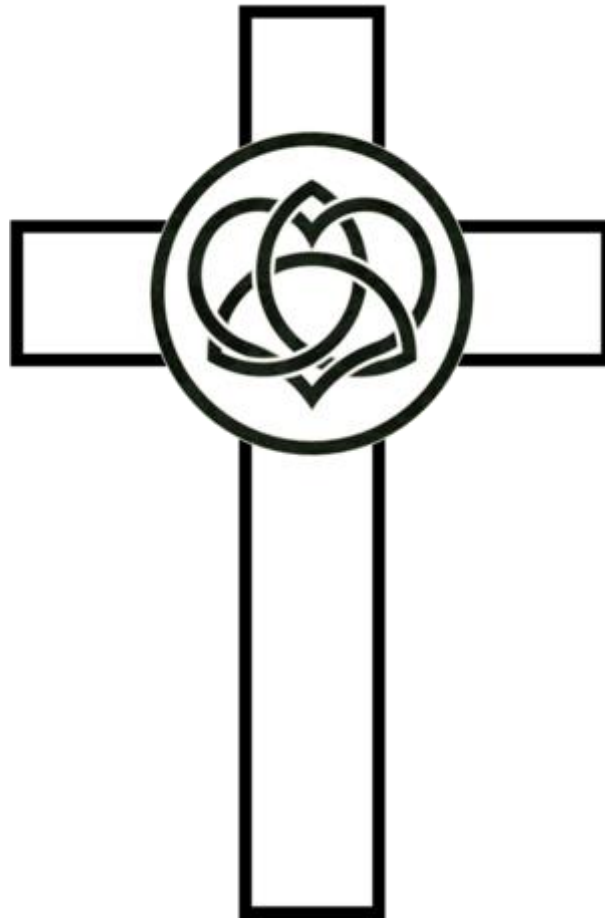


# *Grace Reformed*



*December 14, 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.

## Meditation Verse and Prelude: Isaiah 9:5-7

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

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## \*God's Greeting: Jeremiah 31:3

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel.

## **\*God's Call to Worship: Psalm 124**

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side— let Israel now say—

***If it had not been the Lord who was on our side when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.***

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth! We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

***Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.***

## **\*Our Song and Prayer of Approach: #162 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

### **God's Call to Confession: 1 John 3:16-18**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

### **Our Corporate Confession of Sin: Dear Refuge Of My Weary Soul**

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

#### VERSE 1

Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise,  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,  
My fainting hope relies.  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone canst heal;  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief  
For every pain I feel.

#### VERSE 2

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I fear to call Thee mine;  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline.  
Yet, gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust;  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust.

#### VERSE 3

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,  
And shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sov'reign grace  
Be deaf when I complain?  
No, still the ear of sov'reign grace  
Attends the mourner's prayer;  
O may I ever find access  
To breathe my sorrows there.

#### VERSE 4

Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat;  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet.  
Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat;  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet.

## God's Assurance of Pardon: John 14:23

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

## Our Corporate Response of Praise: Psalm 118:5-7, 17

*Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.*

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: 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

## 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: #221 Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

## 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: Shawn Spalti

Text: Genesis 15

Sermon: God Covenants with Abram

### **Our Prayer of Dedication**

### **\*Our Song of Response: #226 As with Gladness Men of Old**

### **\*God’s Benediction: Matthew 28:20**

“Behold, I am with you every day, to the end of the age.”

### **\*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.