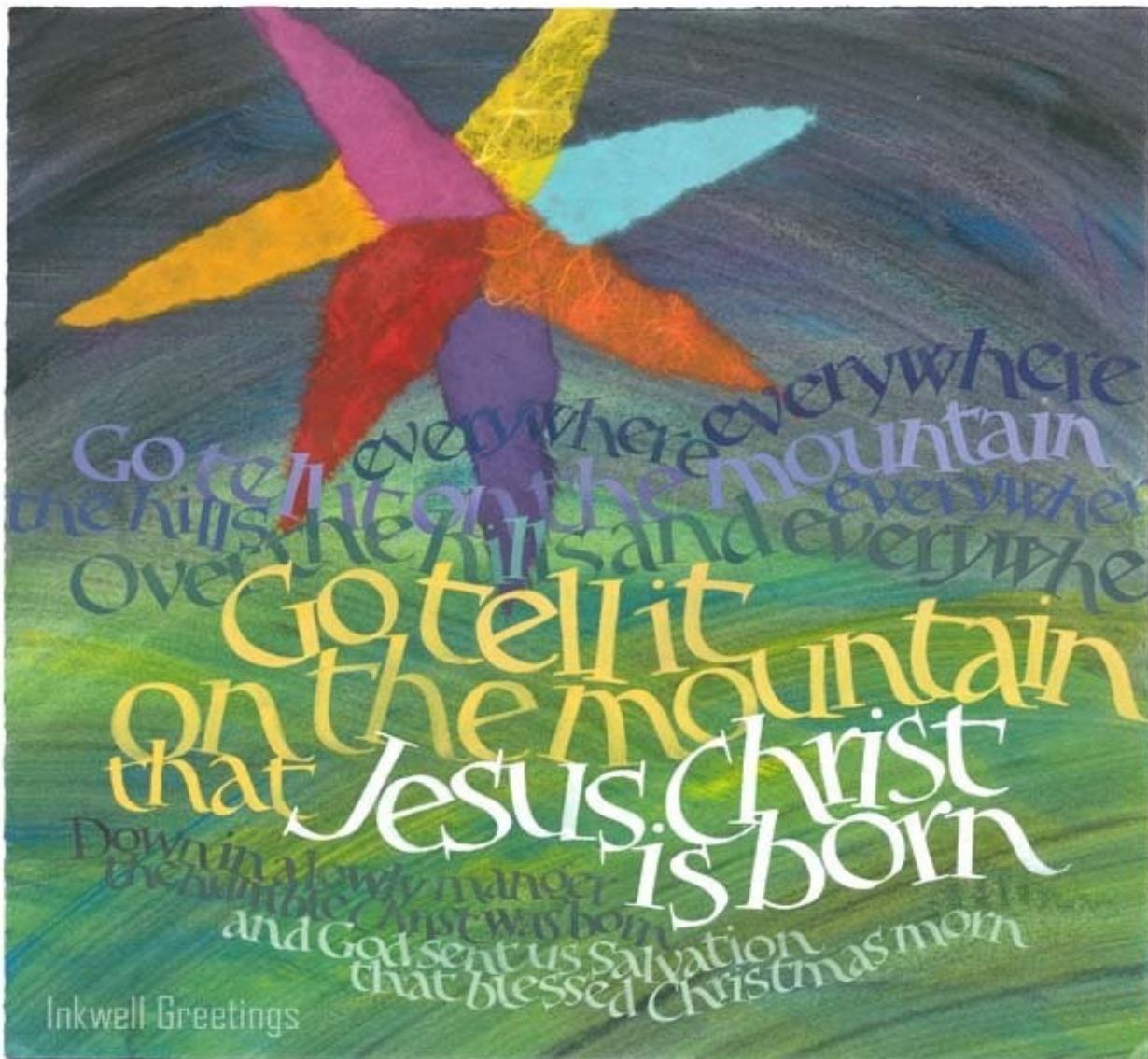




Lutheran Church *of the*  
REFORMATION



*Christmas in July*  
*Our Common Prayer at Home*  
July 19, 2020

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Prelude

## Welcome

Christmas is a beloved story of God's reign spilling over the boundaries set by the powerful people of the world and into the margins. Dark nights and fragile infants interrupted by migrant laborers and choirs of angels point to a vision of the world as it should be, where "being connected" to the right people is replaced by being interconnected through a spirit of unity that brings us all out of the margins and into the center of life. In the infant Jesus, God declares a new standard for power, a word of hope, "good news" for all who are fragile, all who are weak, all who are overlooked, all who are despised, all who are abandoned, all who are unhoused, all who are hovering between life and death.

Even though we will celebrate Christmas in July, we're still in the middle of a lot of hustle and bustle, even if it's not shopping trips, holiday parties, and menu planning. Our beloved Christmas text is set in the middle of a pandemic, record-breaking heatwave, and a movement for racial justice that is unlike any in recent history. Usually, the December noise, mostly cheerful and jolly, drowns out the powerful and countercultural good news that Christmas brings. This July, it may be less cheerful and jolly noise that overshadows our celebration...but...do you hear that? It's the cry of the infant Christ breaking through - God has immigrated from heaven to our Earth!

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross ✠, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the Author of creation, the Word of salvation, the Spirit of compassion.  
**Amen.**

When our Savior's kindness and love appeared, Titus 3:4-7  
God saved us by mercy, not because of good things we had done.  
God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
God gave us a new birth and a fresh beginning through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
We have been embraced by God's grace,  
and given the hope of eternal life.

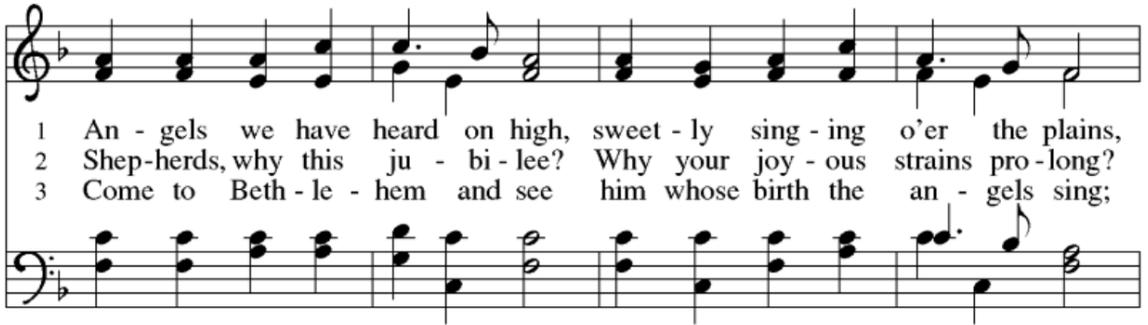
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, holy God, vulnerable and glorious, mighty and merciful.  
Your waters are below us, around us, and above us.  
**Praise to you for your Word calling creation to life.**

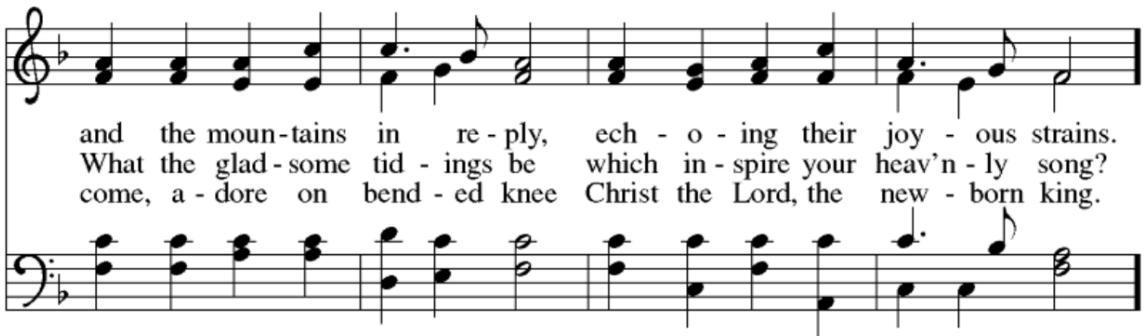
Your waters gush from rocks in the wilderness and flow through the deserts.  
**Praise to you for your Word freeing your people from slavery and sin.**

Your waters blessed Mary to nurture and give birth to Jesus.  
**Praise to you for your Word made flesh, full of grace and truth.**

Through this water, Dear God, remind us of our baptism  
and your embrace of us and all your children.  
Renew our life together with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Bless and call us to share your creative, liberating, and hopeful Word  
to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain on next page.*



Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

## Greeting

*The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

*Even though we are distant from one another, the Spirit unites us as we pray this ancient prayer that introduces the biblical readings for today.*

Let us pray.

*After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:*

God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world. Grant that we may bear the good news of your salvation, proclaiming your promise of peace to the ends of the earth.

**Amen.**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

## Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

See [www.reformationdc.org/worship](http://www.reformationdc.org/worship) for today's Children's Message.



*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*As you are able, proclaim the word of God in song.*

# Hymn

## *Away in a Manger*

ELW 277

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

## Prayers of Intercession

We unite in prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on the church, the world, and all who are in need. Today we combine an ancient form of prayer called a Bidding Prayer, with a contemporary online technique called a Chatterfall. A chatterfall is when a group of people online use the online chat boxes to respond to a question all at the same time. Their responses cascade down the chat box like a waterfall. So if you are following along online, here's how we'll combine a Bidding Prayer and Chatterfall. I will invite you to pray about one subject at a time, for example, "For friends and family around the world, we pray" Then I will pause silently and say the names of friends and family or you may type and tag them in the chatbox – but wait to press enter until I say, "Here us, O God." When you hear me say, "Here us, O God" press enter and all the names we typed and tagged will cascade like a prayer waterfall. We'll do that for each petition.

Now, let us prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, you come among us in Christ Jesus. Grant to your whole church the humility to recognize our sinfulness, and direct us to work toward unity. For the religious communities and leaders working for unity, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

Lord of all the joyful world, all of creation rejoices in you. Endow us with wisdom to care for all that you have made as we give thanks for the beautiful intricacy of your creative work. For the earth, and the places and creatures we name before you now, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, you love mercy and justice. Grant to the leaders of all nations good judgment that leads them to work for justice, peace, and equality for all. For the nations and communities we name before you now, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. For all those we name who are put down or pushed out, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, you promise to be with us always. Make your comforting presence known to new parents, families, those who live alone, those who are sick, those who are hungry, and all who grieve. For all those we name who need your Spirit of wholeness and life, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you guard the lives of the faithful and you have revealed your love to us through the lives of your saints. Inspired by their witness, embolden us to share your love in word and deed. For our grief and joy, for our tears and laughter, for our fears and dreams, for ourselves, we pray: Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.*

## THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.*

Mission Announcements can be found at [www.reformationdc.org/worship](http://www.reformationdc.org/worship)

## Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

*Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.*

*Please give online at [ReformationDC.org/give](http://ReformationDC.org/give) or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email [Office@ReformationDC.org](mailto:Office@ReformationDC.org).*

*To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057*

*Love Has Come*

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Sending Prayer

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

*We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## Blessing

Numbers 6:3-26

God the Creator who delights in you,  
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,  
and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you,  
✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Postlude

## Prayer List

### WE GIVE THANKS ...

#### **For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:**

*Sarah and Greg Guthrie, Evelyn and David McKay (7/19).*

#### **For those who celebrate birthdays this week:**

*Scott Binde, Rob Cowden (7/19); Melissa Lord (7/20); Laura Swanson (7/21);  
Corinne Taylor (7/22); Jim Meyer (7/23).*

### WE PRAY FOR...

*John Amberson, brother of Julie Jones, for health and healing.*

*Del Voss, for health*

*Chester Hart, for healing from COVID-19 and healthy recovery after triple-bypass surgery.*

*Kim Hart, for health and healing from COVID-19.*

*Family and friends of Kathleen Ahrens, Aunt of Sarah Berndt, who died this week, and especially for Kathleen's daughters Deb, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and their children.*

*Family and friends of Marilyn Thaemert, Aunt of Sarah Berndt, who died this week, and especially Marilyn's children Angie, Kent, and Kirk.*

*Family and friends of Kevin Lee Sarring, friend of Parry Carlson and architect extraordinaire, who died from ALS. He helped pro-bono with renovation projects in LCOR.*

*Nancy Dinse, as she settles into her new home in Indiana.*

*Members and friends affected by COVID-19.*

*Mike Cochrane, brother of Karen Carlson, in thanksgiving for a successful brain surgery and continued prayers for increased mobility in outpatient rehab.*

*Len Hawley, friend of Dale Manty, as he receives treatment for leukemia.*

*Erica Hoff, daughter of Betty Walker, as she continues treatment.*

*Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.*

*Wayne Krumwiede, for health and healing.*

*Mel Antonen, as he continues to heal from serious health issues, including COVID-19.*

*David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law.*

*Robert Pfahl and his family for health and healing.*

### **For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service**

*Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and*

family members of those in service here and around the world.

**From our hearts for**

*Phil Abbott, Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick, Bernice Hoveland, Mary James, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Carol Ann Mumaw, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and Gloria Wolf.*



## Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

Pastor Ben Hogue

Preaching Minister

Pastor Michael Wilker

Readers

Liz Tuckermanty, Craig Haas, Emily Andre

Assisting Minister

Henry Middlebrook

Cantors

Jon Korman, Jon-Michael Eclar, Gabbi Levy

The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, will be found on our website, [www.reformationdc.org](http://www.reformationdc.org).

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

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