

READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH

Cathy Gumpert, Pastor

John Ayer, Music Director

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 30, 2007, 11:00 a.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Moment of Silence

Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;

People: Praise God in the heights!

Leader: Praise God, all His angels;

People: Praise Him, all His host!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

People: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

ALL: Praise the LORD!

Psalm 148

Prayer of Confession **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King:"
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance/Summary of the Law **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*+Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Sermon

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Children in 2nd grade and under are welcome to go downstairs to the nursery at this time.

Prayer for Illumination **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament

Isaiah 63:7-9

p. 605

New Testament

Matthew 2:13-23

p. 784

Hebrews 2:10-18

p. 971

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

SINGING WHILE ON THE ROAD AGAIN

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Confession of Faith

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Good Christian friends, rejoice! With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice! With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss. Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened the heavenly door, and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice! With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave! Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Offering *(Please fill out the red pew pads at this time. Remember to PRINT your name.)*

Offertory **As with Gladness Men of Old**

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, there to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare; so may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly
King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls as last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy
glory hide.

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below, praise
Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Dedication of Gifts

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn of Dedication **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and gentleness
Each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH

Organized 1719

December 30, 2007



*Above all, we exist to worship God. Through the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will
make the love of Jesus Christ tangible by caring for one another and those around us and will go out into the
world to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ*

The Rev. Cathy Gumpert, Pastor
The Rev. Donald A. McCabe, Pastor Emeritus