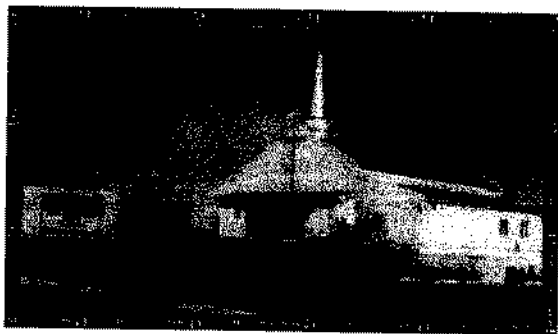


St. Andrew's
Reformed Episcopal Church

18001 94th Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 614-7404

www.andrewrec.org



We Welcome You!

We warmly welcome you to our church family. We believe God has brought you to us and that is special. Our prayer is that you will hear something which you can apply in a practical way to your daily life.

December 28, 2003

Holy Innocents



Very Rev. Frank M. Levi, M.A. Rector
Rt. Rev. Franklin H. Sellers, D.D., Rector Emeritus

Director of Music—Shirley Drobnak
Eucharistic Lay Ministers—Barney Reagan,
Bryan Reagan, Paul Christenson, Derrick Hassert

MORNING PRAYER

(Italicized words read by all)

PRELUDE: Now Is Born The Divine Christchild

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100

“Joy to the world!”

(Standing)

CHORAL INTROIT: Praise Ye The Lord

(Seated)

CALL TO WORSHIP

EXHORTATION *(Standing)* [BCP p. 7]*

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying—

A GENERAL CONFESSION (Kneeling) **

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep: We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws: We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O LORD, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults: Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our LORD. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

THE DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION (Kneeling)

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

*[BCP, refers to corresponding pages in the Book of Common Prayer]

**[Those who are unable to kneel may remain seated]

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Kneeling)

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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

READER: O LORD, open thou our lips;

CONGREGATION: *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.* (All Stand)

READER: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

CONGREGATION: *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

READER: Praise ye the LORD.

CONGREGATION: *The LORD'S Name be praised.*

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (From Psalms 95 & 96)
(Standing, sung by all)

*O COME, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice
in the strength of our salvation.*

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; and
show ourselves glad in him with psalms.*

*For the LORD is a great God; and a great King above all
gods.*

*In his hand are all the corners of the earth; and the
strength of the hills is his also.*

*The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands prepared the
dry land.*

*O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the
LORD our Maker.*

*For he is the LORD our God; and we are the people of his
pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

*O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: let the
whole earth stand in awe of him.*

*For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; and with
righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his
truth.*

*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 PSALTER [BCP] p. 292]

Psalms 8. Domine, Dominus noster.

O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all
the world; thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou
ordained strength, because of thine enemies, that thou
mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider thy heavens, even the work of thy
fingers; the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of
man, that thou visitest him?

5 Thou madest him lower than the angels, to crown him
with glory and worship.

6 Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy
hands; and thou hast put all things in subjection under his
feet:

7 All sheep and oxen; yea, and the beasts of the field;

8 The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; and
whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all
the world!

GLORIA PATRI (Standing)

*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.*

OLD TESTAMENT: JEREMIAH 31:1-6, 15,16
(Seated)

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (Standing, sung by all)

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the LORD. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein;

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;

The Father: of an infinite Majesty;

Thine adorable, true, and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Vouchsafe, O LORD, to keep us this day without sin.

O LORD, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O LORD, let thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in thee.

O LORD, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

NEW TESTAMENT: ST. MATTHEW 2:13-18

(Seated)

JUBILATE DEO. Psalm 100 (Standing, sung by all)

O Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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 APOSTLES' CREED [BCP p. 16]*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our LORD; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

ANTHEM: Christmas Joy

DOXOLOGY (Standing sung by all)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION [BCP p. 17]*

(Kneeling)

The LORD be with you;

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O LORD, show thy mercy upon us;

And grant us thy salvation.

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day [BCP p. 130]*

(Prayed by all)

O ALMIGHTY God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths; Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocency of our lives, and constancy of our faith even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

A Collect for Grace

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the President of the United States, and all in Civil Authority

O LORD, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech thee, with thy favor to behold and bless thy servant George, our President, our Senate and Representatives in Congress, Rod the Governor of our State, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that they may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer

A Prayer for the Clergy and People

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Outreach

O Lord Jesus Christ, who has called us to be lights in a dark world, we pray that you will inspire and enable us to be your witnesses by sharing your gospel in word and deed. We pray that you will expand the ministry and outreach of this parish that many people will come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

A General Thanksgiving (Prayed by all)

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our LORD, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Grace (2 Cor. 13:14)

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

PRAYER SENTENCE: Christmas Prayer

SERMON HYMN #79

"O little town of Bethlehem,"
(Standing)

SERMON: GOD'S CREATION

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 139:13-18

CLOSING HYMN #101

"Away in a manger,"
(Standing)

BENEDICTION (Kneeling)

CHORAL BENEDICTION: Gloria In Excelsis Deo

POSTLUDE: O Come All Ye Faithful

(Please remain in your pews until the acolytes have extinguished the candles)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOREIGN MISSIONS Pray for Judy King, Bible Translation/Discipling. Summer Institute of Linguistics. Amazonas, Brazil.

PRAYER If you have prayer needs, write them down on the yellow paper enclosed in the bulletin, and place it in the offering plate. Let us pray for:

John Baird
Marie Ball
Grant Chessman
Olive Denning
Frances Metcalfe
Louise Rich

BIBLE STUDY Thursday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.

VESTRY MEETING Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

FYI A copy of the minutes of the November Vestry meeting has been posted on the bulletin board.

The Mission Statement of the Reformed Episcopal Church

Built upon the foundation of the authoritative Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, the Reformed Episcopal Church declares her first priority to be that of **evangelism**, the bold and unadulterated proclamation of salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 8:4). In keeping the faith once delivered to the saints, the Reformed Episcopal Church, however, does not believe evangelism to be the end, but rather the beginning of her divinely given vocation. Thus, she is deeply committed to **discipleship**, the work of training evangelized men and women in Christian living (St. Matthew 28:20). This inescapably means that the Reformed Episcopal Church sets a high priority on **biblical worship**. When the Gospel is truly proclaimed and the mercies of God are made known, redeemed men and women must be led to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice, which is their spiritual service of worship (Romans 12:1). Thus, the Reformed Episcopal Church understands the Christian life to be necessarily corporate. The Gospel call of salvation is not only to a Saviour, but also to a **community** of those who have been saved (I Cor. 12:27), which community, being indwelt by Christ's Spirit, transcends both temporal and geographic bounds. Therefore, the Reformed Episcopal Church is **creedal**, following the historic Christian faith as it was affirmed by the early undivided Church in the Apostles' (A.D. 150) and Nicene Creeds (A.D. 325), **sacramental**, practicing the divinely ordained sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as outward and visible signs of His inward and spiritual grace, **confessional**, accepting the doctrines and practices of the English Reformation as found in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, and **episcopal**, finding unity with the Church of the earliest Christian eras through submission to the government of godly bishops. In this fashion, by embracing the broad base of doctrine and practice inherent in the historic Church of the Reformation, the Reformed Episcopal Church has a foundation for effective ministry in the name of Christ to a world which is lost and dying without Him.