

Hurley Reformed Church
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025
9:00 pm Candlelight Service

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich, Pastor
Joy Pollard, Organist

A Service of Lessons and Carols

OPENING HYMN “*The First Noel*” #167 (verses 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER AND GREETING

RESPONSE “*The First Noel*” #167 (verses 3 & 4)

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 (pg. 553)

Christ’s Birth and kingdom are foretold

A CAROL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #163 (verses 1 & 2)

THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 555)

The Peace that Christ will bring

A CAROL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #163 (verses 3 & 4)

THE THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 826)

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary

A CAROL “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” #168

THE FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 828)

Luke tells of the birth of Christ

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE MEDITATION

A CAROL “*Away in a Manger*” #176

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20 (pg 828)

The Shepherds go to the manger

A CAROL “*O Come All Ye Faithful*” #175

THE SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 (pg.777)

The wise men are led by the star

COMMUNION

A CAROL “*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*” #191

THE SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-18 (pg. 858)

The Christmas Gospel

THE SINGING OF CAROLS AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

“*Angels We Have Heard on High*” #190

“*Silent Night*” #171

We celebrate the Arrival of Christmas with the changing of the Paraments (the seasonal cloth on the Pulpit). This symbolizes that Christmas has come.

“*Joy to the World*” #173

THE CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

Welcome to Hurley Reformed Church!

With joy we welcome your presence among us today. Let the words of the psalmist set the tone of our worship: "Sing praises to the LORD, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name--joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:4-5 NSRV)

In Person and Zoom Worship happens at 10am!

Ushers assisting in the service are Dennis Croswell and Dino Sumerano

Flowers on the Alter are our Poinsettias.

Leading us in song is Joy Pollard

Mission of the month- Angel Food East

Reach out to those who need your support in their day to day needs:

Judy Bell (Terry Gaffken's mom) needs prayers; Lori Pinkham is in Wingate at Ulster; Terry Conlin; Lois Morehouse

Audio recordings of the weekly sermon are available on our website, HurleyReformedChurch.org.

Hurley Reformed Church

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Staff

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Tara Lockart- Church Secretary
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Hours: T,W,TH,F, 9-2

Treasurer - Arlene Cotich

Consistory 2025

Elders

Dennis Croswell, *Senior Elder*
Marilyn More
Wally Cook
Maggie Sass, *Clerk*
Chris Decker, *IT*
Bill Baldinger

Deacons

Allan Dumas, *Finance*
Russ Voigtlaender, *Property & Maintenance*
Jeanne Quenzer, *Program & Activities*
Aileen Helsley, *Youth Ministry*
Dino Sumerano, *Worship*
Terry Gaffken, *Missions*

Rev. Charles E. Stickley, *Pastor Emeritus*

Stickley Gardens Columbarium . . . A sacred place of beauty and contemplation.

(Located on the south lawn of the church.)

The lone candle on the chancel is our Peace Candle. It represents this church's support for the men and women in military service, and our prayer that one day we will live in a world where their sacrifice is no longer needed.



#167 The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angels did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay-
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!*

2 They looked up and saw a star

Bright in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star

Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;

O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

#163 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. Come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive
Israel, That mourns in lowly exile here Until
the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
Thee, O Israel!*

2. Come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the
gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows
put to flight.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
Thee, O Israel!*

3. come, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all
things far and nigh. To us the path of knowledge
show, And cause us in her ways to go.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
Thee, O Israel!*

4. come, Desire of nations; bind All peoples in
one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and quarrels
cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to
Thee, O Israel!*

#168, It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. 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 Heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still thro' the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,

And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful step and slow,
Look up! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet bards fore-told,
When with the ever-circling years
Come 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.

#176, Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
no crib for a 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.

The cattle are lowing;
the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
till morning is nigh.

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.

#175 O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him- born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him-
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning.
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain:

#191, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild --
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

- *Refrain:*
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored!
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Long desired, behold Him come-
Off-spring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

- *Refrain:*

3. Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

- *Refrain:*

#190, Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly songs?

Refrain:

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain:

#171, Silent Night

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing, “Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night! holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Al-le-lu-ia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born:
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

#173, Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.