



Advent Three: December 12

the darkness of doubt | the light of knowledge and faith



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday, December 12, 2021- Advent Three

Welcome Visitors, we are glad you are here! Please take time to fill out the welcome card in the pew to place in the offering basket and look for the welcome sign after church during coffee time so we can meet you!

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Held

This hymn arrangement reflects the restrained joy of this season....the tension between the "now" and the "not yet" that we observe during Advent. Today we celebrate that even in the darkness of doubt, God grants us the sustaining light of faith as we wait for His promises to be fulfilled. Verse five of this hymn reminds us of our hope and joy, which will be fully realized at the second coming:

*In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou it sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
alleluias to our King!*

***Welcome and Greeting**

***Sing: "Joy has Dawned"**

Getty/Townend

***Call to Worship**

Good news! The Holy One, God Almighty, claims us as his very own.

Rejoice in the Lord!

Good news! The times of trouble are nearly over.

Rejoice in the Lord, always!

Good news! God is in our midst, ready to renew us with holy love.

Rejoice in the Lord, always! Again, we say rejoice!
Good news! The peace of God will dwell in our hearts.
We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving. Thanks be to God!

***Sing: "My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Shout"**

LUYH 69 1-3

GOD RECONCILES WITH US

Candle Lighting: The Wagenmaker Family

Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises of a peaceful kingdom. On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of love to represent God's love for us through the incarnation of our Savior, Jesus Christ. . This morning we light the candle of joy. We celebrate God's presence to us, and the joy he gives us even in the darkness, even as we wait for the fulfillment of his promises. For Christ the light of the world has already entered the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). We light this candle to declare our joy.

Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us, in this Advent season we acknowledge that too often we approach the story of your love and goodness with a tepid enthusiasm. We're more excited in this season for gifts, family dinners, and holiday cheer than we are about the overwhelming gift *you* have given us – the gift of your Son, the gift of Salvation, the gift of your presence among us. Fill us with joy at this good news, and cause that joy to bubble forth from us, so that every knee would bow and tongue proclaim that Jesus, the babe in the manger, is Lord.

Sing: "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

LUYH 63 vs. 3, refrain

Hear these words of good news from the prophet Isaiah: "I will praise you, Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid." 'With joy,' says the prophet, 'you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you'" (Isaiah 12:1-2a, 3, 6).

Song of Assurance (Choir): "This is the Time to Be Joyful"

Choplin

GOD SPEAKS TO US

Children Sent to Walk Out Worship (5 year olds through 2nd Grade)

Song of Assurance (Choir): "A Great Light"

Larson

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25-38

Message: "The Darkness of Waiting | The Light of Revelation"

Pastor Laura de Jong

Prayers of the People

***Song of Response: "What Child is This"**

LUYH 95 and 96

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE IN HIS LIGHT AND LOVE

***Blessing**

***Sing: "Arise, Shine for Your Light Is Come"**

LUYH 103 vs. 3

Postlude: Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

arr. Tomlin

Participants:

Rev. Laura deJong, preaching

Julie Hordyk, piano

Jean Schuitman, choir

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"Death", *In a Word*, Anneke Kaai © www.annekekaai.nl

Church News

Christmas Cards: Thank you to everyone who wrote cards for our homebound members. You overflowed the boxes and we may need to make bigger ones for next year! Thanks again!

Cards for Our Missionaries: Be sure to stop by the tables in the atrium to sign the cards for our missionaries. This is a great way for them to feel connected to our congregation. We will have these available for another week.

Save the Date: The Pinewood Derby is coming up on January 12 at 7 pm. We are excited to see everyone's car and have a fun race. Pizza and pop will be provided as well. Still interested? Reach out to Glenn Gronevelt or Rob Wagenmaker.

Calendar Update: for all the members who like to get their calendar up to date: The Lessons and Carols service will be on Sunday, December 19 at regular church time (10 a.m.). **We will have a Winter Solstice Service on December 21 at 7 p.m..** The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at 7 pm on December 24. We will not have a service on Christmas day and will meet again on Sunday, December 26 at the usual time of 10 a.m.. We will meet again in the New Year on Sunday, January 2 for our regular Sunday service. Any questions don't hesitate to reach out to us in the office!

Find a copy of "Nectar in a Sieve" by Kamala Markandaya for the **book club** for February.

Art in the Atrium: We have the opportunity to enjoy Joel Schoon-Tanis' art until the beginning of January. If you are interested in purchasing his book or any of the prints please reach out to Vange or Emily in the office. Thanks!

January Series is right around the corner and we are excited to be hosting again. Be sure to grab the schedule out of your mailbox. We have extras in the office if you want to give one to a friend or neighbor.

Grand Haven Christian Middle School will be having their Christmas Band and Choir Concert at our church on Thursday, December 16 at 7 p.m.. You are invited to join!

The **Outreach Committee** is in the works preparing a way we can bless our community. Stay tuned for a church event in February. We are doing this instead of an angel tree this year.

Schedules

SUNDAY - December 12

Projection: Dan Braak

Video: Jason Zuidema, Jim Query, Jay Brace, Jacob Weesies

Ushers: Rotman (Team 9) Eric Rotman, Ron Frantz, Dave VanderWall, Jason Zuidema

Coffee Hosts: Carole Ruiter, Ione Hoekenga, Dan and Melissa Meindertsma

Nursery: Jane DeGroot, Jenny Steigenga

Little Lambs: Ann Koch, Zuidema Girl

Walk Out Worship: Cindy Brace, Dawn Rotman

Greeters: Rick Geertsma, Carl and Mary Erickson

Calendar

SUNDAY - December 12

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service

11:15 a.m. - Bell Practice (last one)

11:15 a.m. - Dance Practice in the Sanctuary

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.- Focus Youth Group

MONDAY - December 13

1:30 p.m. - Ping Pong

TUESDAY - December 14

9 a.m.- 1 p.m.- Office Hours

7:00 p.m.- Sanctuary Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY - December 15

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.- Office Hours

10:00 - 12:00 noon - Parish Nurse

1:00 p.m.- Knitter's Club

7:00 p.m.- Chaos

THURSDAY - December 16

9:00 a.m.- Women's Exercise Group

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.- Office Hours

6:00 p.m.- EmpowerU

FRIDAY - December 17

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.- Office Hours

SATURDAY - December 18

7:30 a.m.—Tool Time

SUNDAY— December 19

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service

SUNDAY - December 19

Projection: Eric Wolffis

Video: Harley Dyk, Ben McCarthy, Dirk Weesies, Ethan Hodge

Ushers: DeWitt (Team 10) Chuck DeWitt, Mike Katje, Ron Retsema, Dennis Schaaf

Coffee Hosts: Jim and Joan Query, Hank and Sharon Ottens

Nursery: Rosemary Geertsma, Ruth Marotti

Little Lambs: No little lambs, kids are participating in the service

Walk Out Worship: No walk out Worship, Kids are participating in the service

Greeters: Jan Zuidema, Ken and Mary Terpstra

Offering: Dan and Kristen Hamilton

Questions for Round Table Discussion or around your dinner table:

1. What are you waiting for?
2. Is there a time when God revealed Himself to you? How?

For more information on current events, please visit our website: **secondcrcgrandhaven.org**