

Welcome visitors, we are glad you are here! Please fill out a welcome card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket. We look forward to connecting with you. Also, please join us for coffee after church so we can meet you!

Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude: “The March of the Kings”
“O Holy Night”

arranged by Marilyn Marzuki
Adophe Adam

Introit: “Come, O Precious Ransom”

Sheppard

God’s Greeting

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

Opening Prayer

LORD our God, we are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of Your kingdom, and so help us to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of your kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope. And as we seek to renew our allegiance to Your loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need Your pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death. Heavenly Father, in your grace and mercy, grant to all your people a new trust in Your good providence and a new obedience to Your sovereign word, for to You our God is most justly due all glory, honor, worship and praise, world without end. **Amen.**

***Processional Hymn:** “Once in Royal David’s City”

LUYH 87

***Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

People of God: Awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children. Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever. Amen.

The Nine Lessons

Lesson One | God tells Adam that his offspring will bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Anthem: "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn"

Haugen/LaMaire

We bring thorns, reminding us that because of Adam's sinfulness the ground was cursed, and in toil he ate of it all the days of his life;

The thorns also remind us of the crown of thorns placed on Jesus, who suffered on the cross to redeem us and all creation.

Lesson Two | God promises blessing for all nations by Abraham's offspring.

Genesis 22:15-18

Anthem: "Divinum Mysterium"

Gramann

Lesson Three | The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Carol: "All Earth is Waiting"

LUYH 57

The yoke reminds us that Isaiah told of one who will come to end oppression and slavery.

We also remember that Jesus said, "come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Lesson Four | The prophet foretells the peace that Christ will bring.

Isaiah 11:1-9

Carol: "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

LUYH 59

This branch reminds us of Isaiah's prophecy that a shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse and bring peace to all the people.

The branch also reminds us of the wood of the cross; Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, making peace through the blood of the cross

Lesson Five | The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38

*Carol: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

LUYH 821 vs. 1,2

The angel Gabriel told Mary: "Do not be afraid, you will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

We also remember the angel at the empty tomb who told the women: "do not be afraid. Jesus, who was crucified, is not here; for he has risen."

Lesson Six | Luke tells the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

Carol: "Away in a Manger"

LUYH 86

We bring cloth to remind us that the baby Jesus was wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger.

The cloth also reminds us that after Jesus' death, his friends took his body and wrapped it in linen cloths and laid it in the tomb.

Lesson Seven | The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

Carol: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

LUYH 81 vs. 2, 5

The lamb reminds us that the baby Jesus made his bed among the animals of the stable and that his birth was announced to shepherds.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lesson Eight | The star leads the wise men to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

Offering and Offertory: "Glorious Light"

Shackley

Prayers of God's People

Lord's Prayer:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh, reminding us of the wise men who journeyed by night to present Jesus with their gifts.

We also remember how Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, at the time of Jesus' death brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare his body for burial.

Lesson Nine | John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

John 1:1-14

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

On him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Anthem: "African Noel"

arr. Harlan

***Benediction**

Postlude: "Prince of Peace"

arr. Ingram

Congregation is asked to remain seated during postlude

Credits & Liturgical Notes:

Serving this Week

Liturgy: Rev. Jay Knochenhauer, Joanne Query

Advent Candle: David VanderHeide family

Piano: Julie Hordyk

Director and Organist: Jean Schuitman

Accompanist: Jan Zuidema

Harpist: Vivienne McCarthy

Flutes: Patrice Frantz, Karen Katje

Percussion: Cal Keuning

Children: Adeline Anderson, Rosie Anderson, Cora Brace, Gabe Schaaf, Kyla Zuidema

We display all music and congregational readings on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) and SNC (green) are located in the pew rack; CH (brown) is located under the seat. Large print bulletins are available in the narthex. OneLicense.net #A-721176, CCLI#775073.

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

ADVENT SERIES

NOVEMBER 27

"The War to End All Wars"

DECEMBER 4

"The Signal"

DECEMBER 11

"The Final Outcome"

DECEMBER 18

Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 24 — 7 PM

"New Names"

DECEMBER 25 — 10 AM

"Beauty Will Save the World"

ADVENT MIDDAY GUIDED PRAYER

**THURSDAYS
12:15PM
SANCTUARY**

DECEMBER 1

DECEMBER 8

DECEMBER 15

DECEMBER 22



Prayer Requests, Praises, Thank You's:

Please hold **Jan and Glenn Gronevelt** close in prayer. We found out on Thursday that Glenn's vocal chord cancer has returned. At this point, it is stage one cancer and it appears to be contained to a small area. Radiation treatments will begin soon.

Doug Zuidema's hip replacement surgery went very well. We are thankful for a skilled surgeon and wonderfully friendly and excellent care at HH. Thank you for your prayers!

Please hold **Jim Schuitman** in prayer; he is not in pain but continues a slow decline mentally and physically.

Char TerHaar would like to thank her church family for the many kind expressions of sympathy in the loss of her sister, Trudy Erffmeyer. You are such a blessing to me!

Announcements:

Thank you for your thoughtful generosity to **The Giving Tree** this year!

Attention all Bakers: Second CRC will once again be hosting the January Series. This award-winning series will be held from January 9-27 and features many top-rated speakers. It draws many visitors from the community each day who come to learn, but also come to enjoy the delicious treats that are provided. If you are willing to help provide cookies and bars, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Volunteer Schedule

December 18

Projection: Dan Braak

Video: Chuck DeWitt, Jason Zuidema, Aiden Rotman, Ethan Hodge

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

Coffee Hosts: Doug and Cheryl Diephouse, Jay and Cindy Brace

Nursery: DeeAnn Hordyk, Vivienne McCarthy

Little Lambs: Ann Koch, Ian Clapp

Walk Out Worship: Children attend Lessons and Carols

Greeters: Dan Meindersma, Jim and Bonnie Van Orman

Offering: Faith Promise-Eric and Judith Tuls

December 25

Projection: Eric Gone

Video: Mark Boelens, Jim Query, Jay Brace, Harley Dyk

Ushers: Jim Mulder (Team 11), Jon Mulder, John Rycenga, Carl Vertregt

Coffee Hosts: Jane DeGroot, Agnes DeBoer, John and Kathy Buitenhuis

Nursery: Cathy Brolick, Gabe Schaaf

Little Lambs: Kerry Bierma, Yasmin Vanderheide

Walk Out Worship: Cindy Brace, Claire Clapp

Greeters: Jay Brace, Chris and Kim Van Stratt

Offering: Habitat for Humanity

Calendar

Sunday, December 18

10:00 am—Church Service

7 pm—FOCUS HS Youth Group

Monday, December 19

9 am-12 pm—Office Hours

1:30pm—Ping Pong

Tuesday, December 20

7:30 am—Prayer Team

9 am-12 pm—Office Hours

Wednesday, December 21

9 am-12 pm—Office Hours

1 pm—Knitter's Club

7 pm—CHAOS Jr High Youth Group

Thursday, December 22

12:15—Advent Midday Guided Prayer

Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24

7pm—Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am—Christmas Day Service