



Worship Service for
The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023

Welcome visitors, we are glad you are here! Please fill out a Welcome Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket. Also, join us for coffee after church so we can meet you!

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. W. Held
arr. R. Haan

Choral Introit: "Prepare The Way of the Lord"

H. Hopson

***Call to Worship**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"
For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

**So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90)

***Song of Worship** “Only A Holy God”

Farren/Smith/Robinson/Thompson

***Our Declaration of Trust and God’s Greeting**

People of God, where is your trust placed?

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen!

***We Greet One Another**

***Hymn of Praise** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LUYH 56

We Are Renewed in God’s Grace

Our Prayer of Confession

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The Assurance of Pardon

The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Here these words of assurance from Psalm 103: “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.”

Thanks be to God.

Song of Assurance: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LUYH 61 vs 1,4, 5,6

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.
Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is *HOPE*.

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)

We bless you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the first candle on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May He give water to all who thirst, for He is our light and our salvation. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Children Leave for Walkout Worship

(Children 5 through 2nd grade are invited to follow the banner to Walk Out Worship.
Parents will find the classroom on the lower level, near the nurseries).

We Bring Our Needs and Our Gifts

Prayers of the People

The 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.**

The Offering: Calvin University

The Offertory: “Advent Alleluia”

arr. K. Christopher

God Speaks Through His Word

The Reading of Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

pg 807

The Prayer for Illumination

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sermon: "Salvation"

The Prayer of Response

***Song of Response** "Beautiful Savior"

LUYH 17

We Celebrate God's Gift

The Invitation to the Table of the Lord

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Christ Jesus, you drew near to us for our salvation, teaching us to live in faith and to seek the good of all. Through his dying and rising, you brought life to the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation
this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to
be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Prayer of Consecration

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts
of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the
communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ
and with your church in all the world.

Keep us faithful and alert for the hour of Christ's coming.

Let us live honorably as children of truth and light, so that we may eat
and drink together in your eternal kingdom.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Communion

Communion Songs:

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

"Joy Has Dawned"

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

LUYH 67

Getty/Townend, vs 1,4

LUYH 69

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give us new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people and free us from fear. Send us forth as witness to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours forever and ever. Amen.

We Leave With a Song in our Hearts

***Song of Praise** “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

LUYH 590 vs 1,4,8

***Benediction**

Postlude “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

arr. W. Held

Credits & Liturgical Notes

Participants: **Rev. Tim Blackmon, Preacher**
Jan Zuidema, Piano
Jean Schuitman, Organ
Paul LaMaire, Christie VanderHeide, Vocalists
Amy Wolffis, Liturgist & Prayer of the People
Deborah Erickson, Vivienne McCarthy, Advent Wreath

We display all music and readings on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) and SNC (green) are 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.

Prayer Requests, Praises, Gratitude:

We mourn with *Dan and Debbie Braak* in the passing of Dan's mother *Dorah Braak* of Grand Haven. The Memorial Service for Dorah will take place at 11am on Friday, December 15, 2023, at Second Reformed Church with Pastor Derek Noorman officiating. Visitations will be Thursday, December 14th, from 6-8pm at Klaassen Family Funeral Home, and on Friday at 1pm at Second Reformed.

Announcements:

Today's Offering: *Calvin University* equips students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

Upcoming Services: Please mark your calendar that we will have services on

- Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24 at 10 am
- Christmas Day, Monday December 25 at 10 am

Full Council Updates:

November Meeting Recap ~The Full Council approved a new process for the recruitment, selection and equipping of office bearers (see below). Council also received a status update on the implementation of our new membership management software, called Planning Center. One of the more exciting features of this new package is the ability to view an online church directory, which should be available in the first quarter of 2024. We are also planning a council and staff retreat for February 2 and 3.

Elder and Deacon Selection ~The Full Council has approved a new process for office bearer selection. This process focuses on clear communication of roles and responsibilities, intentional review of nominees and their gifts and passions for those roles, strategic selection of candidates by the council based on natural abilities and interests and the council's needs; and will culminate in a congregational vote for each nominee and, when possible, one alternate for each vacancy. Elected office bearers will be trained and mentored throughout their term. More information on this new process will be shared in a town-hall meeting after church sometime in January. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider if God is calling you or someone you know to serve in this way.

Advent Devotional: This holiday season, we will be sending you an Advent devotional every Friday in the e-newsletter. You will find included one scripture reading for each day of the week, along with an Advent reflection and a song. We hope that these resources enhance your experience of the most wonderful time of the year.

Advent Midday Prayer: Our time of prayer will begin on Thursday, December 7 at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us every Thursday during the Advent season for guided prayer.

Atrium Art Gallery: Make sure you take time to view the new exhibit titled “visions – a remembrance of grand haven artists”, based on a similarly titled book by Wallace K. Ewing. Wally has written numerous books detailing the history of Grand Haven and surrounding communities. This most recent book tells in text and artwork the stories of 70 local artists, all deceased, who either lived in the area or provided glimpses of Grand Haven through their art. The show in our gallery contains many of the works included in the book, generously made available either by family members or current owners of the works.

CHAOS: Next week, our youth group will have a special outing at the *Grand Haven Room Escape* on Tuesday evening instead of our regular Wednesday night. The kids will engage in an exciting challenge as they attempt to escape from three rooms. Please drop off your children at 1051 Jackson St, Grand Haven, MI 49417, at 7pm and pick them up at 8:20pm. The cost is \$20 per person. If financial constraints are a concern or you need more information, please reach out to Rob Wagenmaker, Youth Director at 616.638.0976.

Christmas Cards: As the holidays approach, spread some love and Christmas cheer to some of our members by sending them cards. Starting today there will be boxes in the church's narthex and in the atrium near the office for the cards. Please leave the envelopes unsealed to allow for easier opening, put your cards in alphabetical order, and tie them together. Cards can be dropped off until December 10. This year we are collecting cards for: *Claudia Alphenaar, Evelyn Baker, Bette Bosma, Jack & Marcia Brace, Conrad Brandsen, Joyce Dark, Donna DeVries, Hank DeYoung, Jill Holman, Donna Kuiper, Ray & Shirley Kuiper, Joan Loeper, Vic & Jean Nienhuis, Jerry Smith, Jan Veenstra, Jean VerStraete, Gord Veurink, and Ruth Wallinga.*

Christmas Cards for Missionaries: Be sure to stop by the tables in the atrium to sign the cards for our Faith Promise missionaries. This is a great way for them to feel connected to our church.

Cuba Mission Trip: Join us on an impactful mission trip back to Cuba from July 19 to 26, 2024! We're excited to immerse ourselves in serving and sharing the love of Christ with the community. Currently, the cost is estimated at \$2,000 per person, but we're actively working on fundraising efforts to potentially reduce this cost. To secure your spot, please tentatively reserve by December 29. This mission trip promises to be an unforgettable opportunity for spiritual growth and making a difference. For more details or to reserve your spot, please contact Rob Wagenmaker at 616.638.0976 or rwagenmaker@hotmail.com.

SWAN's: Save the date for a festive Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 13 at 3:30pm at Barb Hammond's home, 10785 Lakeshore Dr. West Olive, MI. If possible, bring a favorite Christmas treat. Please RSVP to Carole Ruiters at 616-502-2015 if you wish to attend. Meet at church at 3:10pm if you want to carpool.

VBS 2024: Mark it on your calendars to dive into a thrilling undersea adventure at SCUBA! Calling all kids from ages 4 years old to 5th grade to join us on July 8 to 11, from 9:45 am to 11:45 am. Through this immersive experience, children will uncover the truth that God is a faithful friend who loves them endlessly. Also, we're seeking enthusiastic minds to join our think tank and help elevate this experience for the kids. Interested in contributing ideas? Reach out to [Rob Wagenmaker](#) or 616.638.0976 for more information!

Volunteer Schedule

December 3, 2023

Projection: Eric Wolffis

Video: Chuck DeWitt, Jim Query, Dirk Weesies, Jacob Weesies

Ushers: Dan Braak (Team 5), Jeff Erickson, Joe Risselade, Paula Risselade

Coffee Hosts: Ken & Mary Terpstra, Dave VanderWall, Garry VandenBerg

Nursery: Darcie Clapp, Victoria McCarthy

Little Lambs: Betsy Blackmon, Maelyn Wagenmaker

Walk Out Worship: Marie Rycenga, Kyla Zuidema

Greeters: Jay Brace, Jim & Joanne Query

Offering: Calvin University

December 10, 2023

Projection: Dan Braak

Video: Mark Boelens, Jason Zuidema, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

Ushers: Ron Brouwer (Team 6), Dave VanderHeide, Rob Wagenmaker, Doug Zuidema

Coffee Hosts: Dawn & Jim Sacks, Brian & Barb Sikkenga

Nursery: Ruth Marotti, Kerry Bierma

Little Lambs: Cherise VanderHeide, Claire Clapp

Walk Out Worship: Rob/Joslyn Wagenmaker, Frankie Folkert

Greeters: Rick Clapp, Evan & Lois Reinders

Offering: Crossroads Prison Ministry

Calendar

Sunday, December 3

10:00 AM—Sunday Service

Monday, December 4

9 AM-1 PM—Office Hours

1:30 PM—Ping Pong Group

Tuesday December 5

9 AM-1 PM—Office Hours

7PM—Leadership Board

7PM—CHAOS at GH Room Escape

Wednesday December 6

9 AM-1 PM—Office Hours

1 PM—Knitting Club

Thursday, December 7

9 AM-1PM— Office Hours

7PM—GHC Winter Concert

Friday, December 8

Saturday, December 9

Sunday, December 10

10:00 AM—Sunday Service

Connect with Second CRC

2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417
admin@secondcrcgrandhaven.org, (616) 842-0710

YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

Give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1460116>