



Worship Service for
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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: "Journey to the Manger"
"The First Noel"
"The King Shall Come"

M. Marzuki
Traditional
arr. C. Moglebust

***Call to Worship**

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.
(Psalm 107:1-9)

***Song of Praise:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LUYH 76 vs 1-3

***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**

***Song of Praise "The First Noel"**

CH 265 vs 1,2,4,6

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

We are reminded of our need for God's grace and healing in this reading from the book of Genesis 3:8-19.

Our Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

By your holy incarnation, by your cross and passion, by your precious death and burial,
have mercy upon us.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
hear us, good Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
hear us, good Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
hear us, good Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
hear us, good Lord.

**In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, O God, to trust your love,
to seek your purpose and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Song of Assurance: "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

LUYH 63 vs 1,3,4

The Assurance of Pardon

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

After having lit the candles of HOPE and Faith, the third candle is the Candle of JOY, or the "Shepherd's Candle," which reminds us of the joy the world experienced when baby Jesus arrived. Common shepherds were the first to receive the glorious news of His birth and we rejoice that God still uses ordinary people today to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

"The shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'...When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." (Luke 2:15, 17-18)

We bless you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You bring joy to all people in the world through the birth of Jesus. You call us to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the third candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Children Leave for Walk Out 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).

Song of Expectation: “Ready, My Lord”

Jonathan Louis

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Song of Response: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

CH 272 vs 1-3

God Speaks Through His Word

The Reading of Scripture: Colossians 1:15-23

pg 983

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 by patience and the comfort of your holy Word 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, forever and ever.
Amen.

Sermon: “Fullness”

The Prayer of Response

***Song of Response** “Joy has Dawned”

Getty/Townend

We Bring Our Needs and Our Gifts

The Prayers of the People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering: Faith Promise ~ Naji & Anne with World Missions

The Offertory: "Give Glory to God Forever"

Charpentier/Leibergan

We Leave with God's Blessing

***Sending Song:** "Joy to the World"

LUYH 92 vs 1,4

***Benediction**

Postlude "Tidings of Joy"

A. Jordan

Credits & Liturgical Notes

Participants:

Rev. Tim Blackmon, Preaching

Vivi McCarthy, Harp

Julie Hordyk, Piano

Jean Schuitman, Organ & Choir Director

Lydia Moya, Soloist

Karen Katje, Flute

Cal Keuning, Percussion

Rob Wagenmaker, Prayers of the People

Mary Winkle, Kyla Zuidema, 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.

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Prayer Requests, Praises, Gratitude:

Ron & Carol Brouwer covet your prayers as Carol will be having additional esophageal surgery on Tuesday December 19 at Blodgett Hospital.

Announcements:

Today's Offering: Faith Promise - Naji & Anne with World Missions.

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

Leadership Board Update: While our fiscal year to date offering receipts are roughly equal to last year at this time, the congregation is reminded that this year's approved budget for expenses is approximately 10% higher than last year. For this reason, we are about \$27,000 behind budget. Please consider this in your plans for year-end giving and beyond. Thank you.

Advent Wreath Litany: This year our Advent wreath litany is being read by a few of our students and their prayer partners. Prayer partners are assigned to students in 3rd grade or above. If you wish to learn more about this ministry, please contact [Rob Wagenmaker](#).

Advent Midday Prayer: Our time of prayer will continue Thursday, December 14 at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us every Thursday during the Advent season for guided prayer.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Midweek Gathering: A 5 week Bible Study with dinner and children's programs will return on Wednesday January 10 and run through February 7.

Sovereign Grace: The Five Consolations of the Canons of Dort with Rev. Tim Blackmon:

This five-week study delves into the heart of a 17th-century theological debate within the Dutch Church. At its center lies the landmark document of the Synod of Dort, The Decision on the Five Main Points of Doctrine, also known as the Canons of Dort (or the Five Articles Against the Remonstrants). Adopted in 1618-19, this document aimed to clarify key doctrines, particularly justification by faith, and safeguard a biblical understanding for the church.

The Synod's intent, as expressed in the Canons' Conclusion, went beyond mere academic inquiry. They sought to illuminate the path towards "the glory of the divine name, the holiness of life, and the consolation of troubled souls." By studying these historical debates, we gain deeper insights into the foundations of our faith and how they continue to shape our understanding of salvation and Christian living.

We especially encourage young people and their parents, those interested in making a profession of faith, and anyone seeking to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith to attend.

Grief, Loss, Death, and Dying with Amy Anderson:

Suffering is inevitable - Jesus promised us that we will have trouble in this world. He also promised us that one day, all things will be made new. In this five-week class, we will learn what it means to be a "Wounded Healer." We will look at loss and pain through the lens of Christ's love, discovering new ways to live with integrated hope and strength. Please note that this course is not designed as a group therapy session, but rather as a resource and training module for all people.

CHAOS: Our middle school youth group lives up to its name! Leaders and kids explore the Bible and what their faith really means in today's world. There are also games, events, and lots of, well chaos! We welcome any middle school student to join this fun fellowship.

Please see the bulletin insert to sign-up for a study and help with the meal your district is hosting.

Volunteer Schedule

December 17, 2023

Projection: Eric Wolffis

Video: Chuck DeWitt, Jason Zuidema, Dirk Weesies, Harley Dyk

Ushers: Dale Schuitema (Team 7), Kraig Brolick, Cathy Brolick, Gary VandenBerg

Coffee Hosts: John & Marie Rycenga, Tony & Linda Razzini

Nursery: Kim VanStratt, Onika Beswick

Little Lambs: Jenn Steigenga, Reed VanStratt

Walk Out Worship: Sheri Van Duyn, Yasmin VanderHeide

Greeters: Deborah Erickson, Joe & Paula Risselade

Offering: Faith Promise - Naji Umran & Anne Zaki w/ World Missions

December 24, 2023

Projection: Dan Braak

Video: Harley Dyk, Jim Query, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

Ushers: Roger Hordyk (Team 8), DeeAnn Hordyk, Dan Holtrop, John Buitenhuis

Coffee Hosts: Kendall & Patti Steigenga, Dennis & Mary Jo Schaaf

Nursery: Manette DeJonge, Sam/Chris Farrar,

Little Lambs: Jane DeGroot, Laura Knochenhauer

Walk Out Worship: Amy Anderson, Ian Clapp

Greeters: Amy Goorman, Eric & Dawn Rotman

Offering: Campus Ministry at GVSU

Calendar

Sunday, December 17

10:00 AM—Sunday Service

Monday, December 18

9 AM-1 PM—Office Hours

1:30 PM—Ping Pong Group

Tuesday December 19

9 AM-12 PM—Office Hours

Wednesday December 20

9 AM-1 PM—Office Hours

1 PM—Knitting Club

Thursday, December 21

9 AM-1PM—Office Hours

12:15 PM—Advent Midday Prayer

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

10:00 AM—Sunday Service

Monday, December 25

10:00 AM—Christmas Service

Connect with Second CRC

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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

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