



Worship Service for  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 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!*

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## **We Gather in the Presence of God**

**Prelude:** A Child Is Born to Us  
"Christmas Dawn"  
"People, Look East"

arr. D. Schack  
R. Haan  
arr. L. Lamb

### **\*Call to Worship**

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord;  
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
**You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.**

When you took our flesh to set us free  
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

**We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.**

**\*Song of Praise:** “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** “Savior of the Nations, Come”

LUYH 74 vs 1,2,5,7

## **We Are Renewed in God’s Grace**

**Our Prayer of Confession**

O Holy God, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done,  
**We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned  
through our own deliberate fault.**

We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.

**Forgive us and renew our lives through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**The Assurance of Pardon**

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 high as the heavens are 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 does he remove our transgressions from us. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
*(from Psalm 103)*

**Song of Response:** “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Jeffrey Honore

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace**

The fourth candle is the Candle of Peace, or the “Angel’s Candle,” which represents the messengers who announced the birth of the Messiah. A multitude of heavenly hosts celebrated the birth of Christ as they shared the news with humble shepherds. As the angels praised God, their message was one of peace: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

We bless you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us with your gift of peace as we light the candles. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth His Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

### **The Prayers of the People**

**The Offering:** Campus Ministry at Grand Valley State University

**The Offertory:** “A Great Light!”

Lloyd Larson

## **God Speaks Through His Word**

**The Reading of Scripture:** John 1: 1-14

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### **The Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon:** “Light”

## **The Prayer of Response**

### **We Leave with God's Blessing**

**\*Song of Response "Of the Father's Love Begotten"**

LUYH 78 Vs 1-4

**\*The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** ““Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LUYH 78 Vs 5

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** "Hymn of Rejoicing”

J.S. Bach

**Credits & Liturgical Notes**

Participants:

**Rev. Tim Blackmon, Preaching**

**Raechel Dunne, Viola**

**Jan Zuidema, Piano**

**Jean Schuitman, Organ & Choir Director**

**Lydia Moya, Soloist**

**Karen Katje, Flute**

**Paul LaMaire, Patrice Frantz, Vocalists**

**Joanne Query, Prayers of the People**

**Steve Marotti, Liturgist**

**Deborah Erickson, Vivi 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.

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**Prayer Requests, Praises, Gratitude:**

*Ron & Carol Brouwer* covet your prayers as Carol is recovering from additional esophageal surgery.

“Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards and basket. I appreciate my church family.”

~*Joan Loper*

“Thank you for the visit and the many thoughtful Christmas cards. We are blessed to be part of this church family. ~ *Jack and Marcia Brace*

## Announcements:

**Today's Offering:** *Campus Ministry at Grand Valley State University* had a great fall semester and had about 100-150 more students involved in CM this year than last year! They are incredibly grateful for the cloud of witnesses who care about and believe in the work God is doing at GVSU.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above. If you wish to learn more about this ministry, please contact Rob Wagenmaker.

**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.

**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. Reach out to Rob Wagenmaker at 616.638.0976 if you'd like to help.

**White Elephant Epiphany Party:** Children's Ministries invites parents and children (birth-elementary) to a special gathering on Sunday January 7 from 4-6pm at Jay and Cindy Brace's house (16798 Timber Ridge). Please bring an appetizer to share and one white elephant gift per family. Kids will enjoy a movie and a game while the parents share a time of fellowship and fun. Please contact Amy Wolffis 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 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

### December 25, 2023 - Christmas

**Projection:** Harley Dyk  
**Video:** Chuck DeWitt, Jim Query, Mark Boelens, Dirk Weesies  
**Nursery/Little Lambs:** Cindy Brace, Betsy Blackmon  
**Offering:** Habitat for Humanity

### December 31, 2023

**Projection:** Dan Braak  
**Video:** Harley Dyk, Jason Zuidema, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge  
**Ushers:** Eric Rotman (Team 9), Ron Frantz, Dave VanderWall, Jason Zuidema  
**Coffee Hosts:** Dale & Norma Schuitema, Joe & Paula Risselade  
**Nursery:** Kathy Westveld, Dawn Rotman  
**Little Lambs:** Sheila Warners, Yasmin VanderHeide  
**Walk Out Worship:** Barb Fritz, Maelyn Wagenmaker  
**Greeters:** Steve Marotti, John & Marie Rycenga  
**Offering:** General Fund

## Calendar

**Sunday, December 24**  
10:00 AM–Sunday Service

**Monday, December 25**  
10:00 AM–Christmas Service

**Tuesday December 26**  
Office Closed

**Wednesday December 27**  
9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

**Thursday, December 28**  
9 AM-1PM–Office Hours

**Friday, December 29**

**Saturday, December 30**

**Sunday, December 31**  
10:00 AM–Sunday Service

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## **Connect with Second CRC**

2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417  
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**YouTube:** @2ndCRCGH  
**Give online:** <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1460116>