



Worship Service for
Christmas Day
December 25, 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.*

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude: "Trio on "Noel Nouvelet"
"The Birthday of a King"
"Joy to the World"

arr. Lasky
arr. Southbridge
arr. Lau

***Call to Worship**

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
(Luke 2:10-11)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
**Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us;
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

(Luke 1:68-79)

***Hymn of Praise:** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LUYH 80

***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** “Glorious Light”

Getty/Hannah

We Are Renewed in God’s Grace

Call to Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in repentance and faith.

Our Prayer of Confession

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Savior was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

The Assurance of Pardon

The God of all healing and forgiveness draws you to himself
and cleanses you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***Song of Assurance** “Joy to the World”

LUYH 92 vs 1,3,4

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The center candle is the Christ Candle, which represents the eternal presence of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. For the past four weeks, the candles have been burning as we have thought about hope, faith, joy, and peace. These are gifts that Jesus brings to us and today we celebrate his birth. The Christ Candle is the center of the wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives, and we long for his return. The Christ candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light who guides us.

We bless you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread His light of love to all. As we light the candles of this wreath, may its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son, so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

We Bring Our Needs and Our Gifts

The Prayers of the People

The Offering: General Fund

The Offertory: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

arr. Bish

God Speaks Through His Word

The Reading of Scripture: John 1:14-18

pg 886

The Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: “Glory”

The Prayer of Response

We Leave with God’s Blessing

***The Song of Response:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

LUYH 82

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia.

***The Song of Response** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

LUYH 93

***Benediction**

Postlude "And the Glory of the Lord"

Handel, arr. Whitford

Credits & Liturgical Notes

Participants:

Rev. Tim Blackmon, Preaching

Julie Hordyk, Piano

Cathy Schaaf, Organ

Paul LaMarie, Jeff Erickson, Chris Hordyk, Jason Zuidema, Dennis Schaaf, Brass

Henk Ottens, Prayers of the People

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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Volunteer Schedule

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

Connect with Second CRC

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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

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