



Worship Service for
The First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 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: "Joy Has Dawned"
"Joy!"

arr. Wagner
arr. Butler

***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.

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!
(From Psalm 90)

***Song of Worship:** "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"

LUYH 405; 1,4,5,6

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Song of Worship** “Behold our God”

Baird/Altrogge

God Reconciles Us to Himself

Call to Confession

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

(Psalm 90:1-2)

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices, and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not
to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare all those who confess their faults.
Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen**

Song of Confession “Lord, Have Mercy”

LUYH 639

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to you, not to condemn the world but in order that you might be saved – healed and forgiven – through him. Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Amen.

***God’s Greeting & Mutual Greeting**

God's Speaks His Word

Blessing for Children

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that our children, children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

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).

Reading of Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

pg 976

Prayer for Illumination

Heidelberg Catechism: Question & Answer 27

What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Sermon: God is Never Late

***Song of Application:** Great Are You Lord Ingram/Jordan/Leonard

***We Profess our Faith**

Heidelberg Catechism: Question and Answer 28

How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

**We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.
For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will
they can neither move nor be moved.**

God Hears Our Prayers

The 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.**

God Receives Our Gifts

The Offering: General Fund

The Offertory: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

arr. Labenske

God Blesses Us to Go into the World

***Doxology Song: "All People that on Earth Do Dwell"**

LUYH 1,vs 1-4

***Benediction**

Postlude "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

arr. Lopez

Credits & Liturgical Notes

Participants:

Rev. Jay Knochenhauer, Preaching

Julie Hordyk, Piano

Amy Goorman, Paul LaMaire, Vocalists

Amy Wolffis, 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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Prayer Requests, Praises, Gratitude:

Together with her husband *Carl* we mourn the death of *Sherrye Vertregt* who passed away on Wednesday, December 27. Arrangements will be announced by Klaassen.

Pray for comfort for *Jean Schuitman* as her brother, Richard Walkotten, passed peacefully away to his heavenly home on Tuesday, December 26. Arrangements will be announced by Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf in Grandville.

“Thank you for the wonderful Christmas Cards. The amount was overwhelming, and they brought tears to my eyes.” ~ *Hank DeYoung*

“A warm thank you for all the prayers, lovely cards, hugs and acts of kindness in Gordon Veurink's homecoming. Although we will experience great loss as we celebrate our first Christmas without our Dad and Grandfather, we rejoice in his heavenly reward. A special thanks goes to everyone who prepared and served the luncheon in the North Hall. We also appreciate Pastor Tim with his words of comfort at both the service and the committal. Second CRC was Dad's life for so many years. Thank you for embracing him with his final farewell.”
~*Ralph and Sheri, Sarah and Colbie Van Duyn & the Veurink Family*

Thank you to *Jan Zuidema* for her many years of organ and piano playing. We greatly appreciate you sharing your musical talents with our congregation. In celebration of her retirement, we will have cake after today's service.

Announcements:

Today's Offering: General Fund

Leadership Board Update: Representatives from the leadership board will be available in a town hall meeting after the service on January 7, to explain our new office bearer selection process and to answer your questions. Please plan to attend.

January Series: Attention all Bakers, our church will once again host this award-winning series from January 15 – February 2, which features top-rated speakers. It draws many visitors from the community each day who come to learn and 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.

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.

Faith Promise Updates:

Donald Slager arrived safely back home from Liberia earlier this month. The translation work went very well for the most part. He will be returning to Liberia again the early part of 2024.

Ben Veurink is very appreciative of the generous Christmas gift and the short notes from many families in the congregation in the Christmas Card. He had the privilege and honor last month of graduation for their first class of 50 students in Biblical Studies offered in the Expositor's Seminary. He is very appreciative of the support of Second CRC.

Giving Envelopes: The 2024 Offering Envelopes are in your church mailbox, which is located in the west hallway behind the front of the sanctuary.

Projection Team: We are looking for someone to be a substitute on the projection schedule. Right now, there is a need for three open Sundays in the next four months. If you can stay awake, can read, and push a key on the computer at the right time, we will train you. Please contact via phone, text, or email either Dan Braak or Harley Dyk.

Tool Time: We will continue our study on the Gospel of John on Saturday January 6 from 7:30-8:30am at church. Coffee and donuts are provided. Please contact Rick Geertsma at 616-402-9791 for more information. Upcoming Dates: January 6 and 20, February 3 and 17, March 2 and 16.

SWANS: Let's start the New Year by having an enjoyable lunch together on January 17, 11:00 a.m. at Lakeside Eats in Grand Haven. It is located at 216 Washington (next to Borr's Bootery). Reservations are needed so please call Carole Ruiter at 616-502-2015 to reserve a seat.

Summer Camp: Attention families, day camp and overnight camp schedules are starting to come out. The Welcome Desk has information about *Camp Geneva*. Interested in a scholarship for a Christian Camp? Contact Amy Wolffis for more information and a form.

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 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

January 7, 2024

Projection: Dan Braak

Video: Chuck DeWitt, Jason Zuidema, Mark Boelens, Harley Dyk

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

Coffee Hosts: Wes & Mary Willink, Ralph & Sheri Van Duyn

Nursery: Mary Terpstra, Onika Beswick

Little Lambs: Betsy Blackmon, Kyla Zuidema

Walk Out Worship: Betsy Blackmon, Kyla Zuidema

Greeters: Dan Meindersma, Jim & Dawn Sacks

Offering: Love in Action - Auto Ministry

Calendar

Sunday, December 31

10:00 AM–Sunday Service

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

Tuesday January 2

Office Closed

Wednesday January 3

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

Thursday, January 4

9 AM-1PM–Office Hours

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

Sunday, January 7

10:00 AM–Sunday Service

11:30 AM–Town Hall on
Nomination Process

Connect with Second CRC

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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH
Give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1460116>