Second
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Worship Service for the
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

God Gathers His People

Prelude Come, Christians, Join to Sing — arr. D. Wyrtzen

Choral Introit "This is the Day!" — D. Besig

The Greeting

The LORD be with you.
The LORD bless you. — Ruth 2:4

***The Peace**

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

***The Call to Worship**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless.
The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD! — Psalm 146:1-2, 5-10

***The Opening Hymn** "God is Our Refuge and Our Strength" — LUYH 432 vs 1,3,5

***The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you are our refuge and our fortress, and under your wings we find shelter. In Jesus Christ you have longed to gather your people as a hen gathers her brood. Draw us close to you, cover us with your faithfulness, and let us rest secure in your love, so that we no longer look for safety anywhere but in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** Ruth 2:12, 20; Psalm 36:7

God Pardons and Renews Us

The Call to Confession

"In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land." Those were days when "everyone did what was right in his own eyes." We know such days, and we know such hearts. Let us confess our sin together. Ruth 1:1; Judges 21:25

The Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have called us to find our refuge in you, but we have run to other shelters. We have looked for safety in our money, our reputations, and our own plans. We have tried to cover our shame and our failures by ourselves instead of coming to you to be covered. Like the children of Jerusalem, we have been unwilling to be gathered, and we have kept our distance from your love. Forgive us, and draw us in. Hide us in the shadow of your wings, and clothe us in the righteousness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Song of Confession "You are My Hiding Place" LUYH 412

The Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." In Jesus Christ you are covered and you are forgiven.

Blessed be the LORD, **who has not left us this day without a redeemer.**
Isaiah 61:10

The Rule of Gratitude

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.
Romans 8:28, 32; Ruth 4:14

***The Song of Praise** "Forever" LUYH 578

God Speaks His Word

***The Prayer for Illumination and Blessing of the Children**

Gracious God, your kindness goes before us, even when we cannot see it. You have taught us that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of your law, and by your Holy Spirit feed us with your Word and give us grace to receive Christ our Redeemer as he is offered to us in the gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Psalm 119:18; Deuteronomy 8:3

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.
Psalm 121:7-8

The Reading of Ruth Ruth 3 p 223

The New Testament Reading Matthew 5:25-33; Ephesians 5:25-27 p 810; p 978

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Sermon "Spread Your Wings"

***The Hymn of the Day** "My Only Comfort" LUYH 781

***The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection and the life everlasting.
Amen.

We Respond in Faith

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.

The Offering Missions Christmas Gifts

"When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow."
Deuteronomy 24:19

The Choral Offertory "The First Hymn" C. Tomlin/B. Fielding

In the ancient ruins of Oxyrhynchus, Egypt, archaeologists unearthed an 1,800-year-old papyrus scrap containing a fragment of the earliest known Christian hymn, complete with both lyrics and musical notation. Composers and artists Chris Tomlin and Ben Fielding brought that hymn back to life, reimagining the melody for modern worship. The song and the story behind it are powerful reminders that our witness through word, song and deed today will shape the faith of future generations.

God Sends Us Out

***The Closing Hymn** "The Church is One Foundation" LUYH 251 vs 1,2 4

***The Benediction**

The Postlude "Go Forth in Faith" F. Ritter

Worship Leaders & Liturgical Notes
Preaching: Rev. Tim Blackmon
Organ & Choral Director: Jean Schuitman
Piano: Julie Hordyk
Prayers of the People: Henk Ottens
Soloist: Kate Reinders
Vocalists: Christie Vander Heide, Evie Hoekzema

We display music on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) in pew rack; OneLicense.net #A-721176, CCLI#7750

Welcome Guests:

Please fill out a Guest Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket or scan the back of this bulletin for an online form. Also, join us for coffee and cookies after church so we can meet you!

This Sunday:

Atrium Art Gallery: Join us today after the worship service and coffee time for the latest Atrium Art exhibit reception, “Making the Unseen, Seen.”

New Members Classes: Join us in the lower level for the second session of our New Members Class. You are welcome to join even if you did not attend last week.

Today’s Ministry Spotlight: This Sunday's offering is for the Christmas Gifts for our Missionaries (Faith Promise). There's also a table in the North Hall with Christmas Cards for you to wish them a blessed holiday season.

Worship Center I: Today our children will learn about the prophet Elijah and the contest on Mt. Carmel, seeing the power of God and His pursuing love for His people.

Worship Center II: Today our children will learn about God's 'gift of freedom' from the beginning of time, how - even today - we use our freedom to choose, and have consequences for our choices.

Next Sunday:

Afterword: Pastor Tim will do an afterword on the theology of Ruth.

FOCUS High School Youth Group: All high schoolers are welcome to attend at 6:30pm in the lower level.

Missions Spotlight: Next week we will hear from Douglas Cupery with an update on the Crossroads Prison Ministry.

Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

Pray that we will practice “philoxenia” – love of the stranger – and cultivate a hospitable environment where newcomers and longtime members can flourish.

Prayerfully consider who you can nominate to serve on council for 2027.

Church Announcements:

Cadets: It’s not too late to sign up for Cadets! We will meet Mondays in November - 16th and 30th. Meetings take place at First CRC from 6:45-8:30pm. Need more information, contact Pete at pmalek413@gmail.com.

CHAOS Middle School Youth Group: Our upcoming gathering will feature a recap of our first three lessons, after which we will hold a game night in the North Hall, including laser tag. We look forward to seeing you there.

Love In Action Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive: It's time again for our Annual Thanksgiving Drive for Love In Action and the need continues to be high in our area for food. All items can be used, but we especially need: Tea, Coffee, Canned Fruit (especially Pineapple and Mandarin Oranges), Sugar, Flour, Canned Veggies (especially Green Beans and Corn), Jello, Stuffing. If you are able to donate any of these items, please drop them off in the church parking lot on *Friday, November 20th*, between 9am and 12noon. Please contact Ron Brouwer, 616-405-7249, with any questions or concerns.

Parents Night Out: Coming up on Friday November 20th. You may drop your children off at church from 5-7:30pm for pizza, crafts, and games. Families are encouraged to invite another family to this event, too. Please RSVP to Annie Hoekzema by Wednesday, November 18.

Prayer Partner Celebration Event: Adults and students, please save the date for a chance to enjoy a baked good while connecting with your Prayer Partner after church on Sunday, December 6th.

SWANs: The SWANs are excited to sponsor a fall event for ALL LADIES of our church. Mark your calendars for Monday, November 16 at 11am. The faith-based movie, “The Little Drummer Boy" will be airing at the Grand Haven 9. We hope you come and enjoy a ladies day out with the SWANs! We are also planning to go to Russ’s for lunch afterward. If you would like to attend, please call Carole at 616-502-2015. **Please meet at the Grand Haven 9 at 10:50am.**

Upcoming Services: Please note that we will have a service for:

*Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 26th at 10am

*Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th at 5pm

Volunteer Schedule

November 15, 2026
Projection: Paul Marotti
Video: Dan Wagenmaker, Jim Query, Mark Boelens, Ethan Hodge
Sound: Todd Cunningham
Ushers: Team 1 – Steve Marotti, Todd Cunningham, David Brace, Mike Buitendorp
Coffee Hosts: David & Rita Zuidema; Lois Poel, Lola Fuhs
Nursery: Rosemary Geertsma, Victoria McCarthy
Little Lambs: Manette deJonge, Sydney Marotti
Walk Out I: Barb Fritz, Reed VanStratt
Walk Out II: Sheri Van Duyn, Rio Gasser
Greeters: Hank Byma; Glen & Yvonne Sparling
Council in Parlor: Dan Wagenmaker, Tony Razzini
Offering: Missions Christmas Gifts

November 22, 2026
Projection: Dan Braak
Video: Chuck DeWitt, Paul Marotti, Dan Meindertsma, Jason Zuidema
Sound: Rick Clapp
Ushers: Team 2 – Curt DeJongh, Chris Hordyk, Chris VanStratt, Pierce VanStratt
Coffee Hosts: Rosemary & Rick Geertsma; Sydney Marotti; Myra Young
Nursery: Mary Terpstra, Carissa Marotti
Little Lambs: Amy Wolffis, Amy Bunce, Alice Hendricks
Walk Out I: Carla Byma, Maelyn Wagenmaker
Walk Out II: Cindy Brace, Dawn Rotman
Greeters: Dan Wagenmaker; Jason & Jennifer Steigenga
Council in Parlor: Tony Razzini, Dan Schuitema
Offering: Resonate Global Missions - Slack

Calendar

Sunday, November 15
10:00AM – Worship Service
11:30AM – Art Reception
11:30AM – Bell Rehearsal
11:30AM – New Members (2)

Monday, November 16
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
10:50AM – SWANs Movie Meetup

Tuesday, November 17
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
7-8PM – Friendship Club

Wednesday, November 18
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
1PM – Knitting/Craft Group
6:30PM – CHAOS MS Youth

Thursday, November 19
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
7:00PM – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 20
Office Closed
9AM-12PM – Food Drive
5-7:30PM – Parents Night Out

Saturday, November 21

Sunday, November 22
10:00AM – Worship Service
6:30PM – FOCUS HS Youth

Connect with Second CRC
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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

Give Online:

Guest Registration:

Listen on Spotify: