Second
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

We Cry Out

Prelude "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Hilliard
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Perkins

The Greeting

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.
Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him.
Even so. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light the candle of Hope. "I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told." For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

***The Call to Worship**

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?
How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear.
In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known;
in wrath remember mercy.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Habakkuk 1:2; Psalm 13:1, 5; Habakkuk 3:2

***The Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LUYH 61 vs 1,2,5,7

***The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The Song of Worship** "All Must Be Well" Bowley Peters/Smith

We Watch and Wait

The Prayer of Illumination and Blessing of the Children

Faithful God, like your prophet we take our stand at the watchpost to see what you will say to us. Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. By your Holy Spirit open our ears to your Word and our hearts to Christ, the Word made flesh, who came for us and is coming again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reading of Habakkuk Habakkuk 1:1-11 p. 785

The New Testament Reading 2 Peter 1:3-11 p. 1018

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Keeping of Silence

The Sermon "How Long?"

***The Hymn of the Day** "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LUYH 478

We Confess and Live by Faith

The Call to Confession

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. Then he asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Like the prophet, we have cried out, "How long, O LORD?" And sometimes we have stopped crying out at all. Let us confess our sin to the God who hears.

The Prayer of Confession

Righteous Father, you have told us always to pray and not lose heart, but we confess that we have lost heart. When you seemed slow, we grew quiet. When our prayers went unanswered, we stopped asking, as if you were not listening.

When we looked at the violence and wrong in the world, and at the wrong in our own lives, we decided that you were idle, and we trusted our worry more than your word. We have talked about you more than we have talked to you.

Forgive our prayerlessness and our unbelief. Forgive us for accusing you of doing nothing when you are doing a work we would not believe if told.
Have mercy on us, and teach us again to cry to you day and night; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: our prayers grow faint, but the prayers of Christ do not.
"He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." And Jesus himself asks, "Will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily."
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written:
"The righteous shall live by faith."

***The Peace**

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

***The Nicene Creed**

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

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We Rejoice

***The Song of Praise** "My Soul Finds Rest" LUYH 370

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 Crossroads Prison Ministry

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

The Offertory "Still, My Soul Be Still" with "Be Still My Soul" arr. Koerts

We Go Out in His Strength

***The Closing Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LUYH 56 vs 1,2

***The Benediction**

The Postlude "Let All Things Now Living" arr. Hilliard

Worship Leaders & Liturgical Notes
Preaching: Rev. Tim Blackmon
Advent Candle: Kyla Zuidema, Mary Winkle
Oboist: Sally Wagenmaker
Pianist: Julie Hordyk
Prayers of the People: Jason Zuidema
Vocalists: Chris Hordyk, Sally Wagenmaker

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:

Offering: Crossroads Prison Ministry connects people in prisons with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships as they study God's Word together.

Worship Center I: Today our children will celebrate the start of the Advent season. They will learn about prophets and take time to better understand why the promised Messiah would be like a light shining in the darkness.

Worship Center II: Today our children will celebrate the start of the Advent season by learning how God was weaving through every time and every place. With God all things are possible!

Next Sunday

Growing Deep Roots: Thank you for praying for our church council. At the last meeting, council unanimously approved adding a new full-time leader in discipleship to our staff. As Pastor Tim shared at a recent Afterword, this role grows out of our Rooted series and our strategic initiative for discipling the next generation. It brings together our youth director and ministry associate positions, with a focus on discipling our middle schoolers, high schoolers, and young adults, and on growing our small groups and Bible studies. If the person called is ordained, our new leader will serve as Associate Pastor of Discipleship and will be called at a congregational meeting. If not, our new leader will serve as Director of Discipleship.

Join us for an Afterword on Sunday, December 6, to learn more and ask your questions. Please keep praying with us for the search ahead!

Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

Please keep Henk Ottens in your prayers as he prepares for knee replacement surgery this coming Thursday.

Church Announcements:

Upcoming Special Service: Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th at 5pm

CHAOS Middle School Youth Group: We will resume meeting this coming Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm in the lower level to continue our Alpha Kids series.

Friendship Club: The congregation is warmly invited to come to our Friendship Club Christmas Program in the sanctuary on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00pm. We appreciate the support of our church family.

Prayer Partner Celebration Event: Next Sunday immediately following the service, Prayer Partners meet in the Parlor for a time of connection.

Women's Event: On Monday, December 7th, we are hosting a special candlelight Advent celebration where women can enjoy an evening of fellowship, worship, hear from a speaker, and sample desserts around beautifully decorated tables. Visit the website and click on Register or signup at the Information Desk. Registration deadline is Friday, December 4th at 5pm. If you have questions, please contact Ann K.

Christmas Cards: Boxes for collection are located in the church's narthex and atrium near the office. Please leave the envelopes unsealed to allow for easier opening, put your cards in alphabetical order, and tie them together. Cards can be placed in the boxes through December 13.

This year we're collecting cards for: *Evelyn Baker, Jack & Marcia Brace, Conrad Brandsen, Nancy Brouwer, Donna DeVries, Hank DeYoung, Judy Doezema, Eileen Harnden, Jill Holman, Gord & Merele Katt, Fran Kieft, Sandy Klaassen, Donna Kuiper, Shirley Kuiper, Jim Mulder, Vic & Jean Nienhuis, Jack & Ruth Smant, Jan Veenstra, Jean VerStraete, Ruth Wallinga.*

Angel Tree: We are supporting the Christmas Shoppe at Love in Action. The Angel Tree is in the Atrium along the windows decorated with gift tags. Our donations will brighten Christmas for LIA's Housing Guests and families of those in their programs. Please consider taking a tag or two from the tree and place the items unwrapped under the tree by Sunday, December 6. Thank you! ~ The Outreach Team.

SWANs: On Wednesday, December 9th at 3:00pm we are invited to Barb Hammond's home for a wonderful Christmas Tea! Quiche and pigs in a blanket will be provided. We need seven volunteers to bring either a favorite Christmas treat, or some fruit. Please call Carole if you are willing to donate. We are looking forward to having Pastor Tim share a devotional for us! RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. Call Barb (616-482-7595) or Carole (616-502-2015).

Volunteer Schedule

November 29, 2026
Projection: Dan Wagenmaker
Video: Chuck DeWitt, Jason Zuidema, Mark Boelens, Ethan Hodge
Sound: Jim Warners
Ushers: Team 4 – Rick & Rosemary Geertsma, Dirk Weesies, Ralph VanDuyn
Coffee Hosts: John & Cindy Klinger; Chuck & Jeanne Schuch
Nursery: Machelle Knochenhauer, Mary Wierenga
Little Lambs: Jane DeGroot, Kyla Zuidema
Walk Out I: Carla Byma, Cheryl Diephouse
Walk Out II: Joslyn Wagenmaker, Ian Clapp
Greeters: Dale Schuitema; Guy & Alishia Terrill
Council in Parlor: Ken Terpstra
Offering: Crossroads Prison Ministry

December 6, 2026
Projection: Dan Wagenmaker
Video: Dan Meindertsma, Paul Marotti, Jay Brace, Jason Zuidema
Sound: Todd Cunningham
Ushers: Team 5 – Dan Braak, Jeff Erickson, Joe & Paula Risselade
Coffee Hosts: David & Jeanne Ziegler; Garry VandenBerg; John Buitenhuis
Nursery: Cathy Brolick, Kari DeLange
Little Lambs: Cherise VanderHeide, Sydney Marotti
Walk Out: Annie Hoekzema, Rio Gasser
Greeters: Ken Terpstra; Don & Trudy Timmer
Council in Parlor: Sheila Warners
Offering: Hope Lighthouse Ministries

Calendar

Sunday, November 29
10:00AM – Worship Service
11:30AM – Bell Rehearsal

Monday, November 30
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
12PM-5:45PM – Blood Drive

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

Wednesday, December 2
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
1PM – Knitting/Craft Group
6:30-8PM - CHAOS

Thursday, December 3
9AM-1PM – Office Hours
7-8PM – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 4
Office Closed
5PM – from Ruth to Us Registration Deadline

Saturday, December 5
8AM-9AM – Tool Time

Sunday, December 6
10:00AM – Worship Service
11:15AM – Prayer Partners
11:30AM – Afterword
6:30-8PM - FOCUS

Connect with Second CRC
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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

Give Online:

Guest Registration:

Listen on Spotify: