

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

In Luke's account of Christ's coming to earth the story is filled with the sounds of various singers singing their songs of joy and wonder. A new day is dawning before their very eyes and they can't help but to marvel at what God is doing in their midst. The songs Luke records are meant to awaken his readers and fill their own hearts with joy. That same God is still doing great things today!

Throughout the Advent season we are going to take a closer look at each of the songs in Luke's Gospel. As we do so – may God unleash on us the same sense of excitement and energy of heaven that he unleashed two thousand years ago!

In His Grace, Pastor John

1. Nov. 27 - "Mary's Song – 'God is My Redeemer'"
(Luke 1:39-56)
2. Dec. 4 – "Zechariah's Jesus Song – 'The Horn of Salvation'" (Luke 1:67-75)
3. Dec. 11 – "Zechariah's John Song – 'The Rising Sunshine'" (Luke 1:76-80)
4. Dec. 18 – "Simeon's Song – 'Light to the Gentiles'"
(Luke 2:25-33)
5. Dec. 25 – "The Angel's and Shepherd's Song –
'Peace on Earth'" (Luke 2:1-20)

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Guest Pastor Matt Borst
December 4, 2022 – Second Sunday in Advent
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

"God with us, the promise has come to be;"

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship

By the tender mercy of our God,
The dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness
And in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)
We give thanks for the gift of Jesus
who was in every way like us.
We who are chained to the cycle of life and death,
find freedom in this child who is our Saviour,
Immanuel, God with us. We listen, as we sing, as we pray.
Fill us with your Spirit giving light in our dark places.

* Opening Song of Praise: LUYH#76 vs. 1-4

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

- Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

Refrain

- Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.;
Music: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 Hymns Ancient and Modern,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

* God’s Greeting

* Opening Songs of Praise:

“Days of Elijah”

- These are the days of Elijah.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.
And these are the days of your servant Moses.
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
of famine and darkness and sword.
Still we are a voice in the desert crying
“Prepare ye the Way of the Lord”.

Chorus:

*Behold He comes riding on the Clouds,
Shining like the Sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice in the year of Jubilee
and out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.*

- These are the days of Ezekiel.
The dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David.
Rebuilding the temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest.
The fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in the vineyard.
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Chorus

*“Days of Elijah” Robin Mark; © 1996 Daybreak Music LTD.
(Admin. by Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI# 678905*

“Prepare Him Room”

Worship Team Only

1. O behold, the myst'ry now unfolds;
see the star shine on the virgin foretold.
Angels sing and light up the sky,
hope rings out in a newborn's cry;
swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!

Worship Team Only

Chorus

*Prepare Him room prepare Him room;
Let the King of glory enter in.*

All Sing

2. God with us, the promise has come to be;
this, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the words of life;
His kingdom now is near for those with ears to hear.

Chorus (2x)

All Sing

3. Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem;
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
see the love of God displayed;
Now He's risen and He reigns;
praise the Name above all names!

Chorus (2x)

*Prepare Him room prepare Him room;
Let the King of glory enter in.*

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“This, the one the prophets were longing to see.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Reader #1: The Advent wreath is a circle
with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God’s unending love
and faithfulness.

Reader #2: Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world.
In him was life, and the life was the light
of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reader #1: Once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light.

Reader #2: If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us
from all sin.

Reader #1: We are all children of light and children
of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

Reader #2: Jesus said, “Everyone who believes in me
should not remain in the darkness.”
—based on John 1:4-5; 12:46; Ephesians 5:8;
1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1

Song of Response: *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* (2x)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

“Emmanuel” Isaiah 7:14, Bob McGee, Copyright © 1976 C.A. Music CCLI# 678905

*(During the singing of this song the children
are invited forward for the Children’s Message)*

Children’s Message: Marjo Rouw

*(Following the conclusion of the children’s message children
ages 3- 1st grade are dismissed for Children’s Worship)*

"In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the word of life;"

Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Sheri Link

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:67-75

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***Zechariah's Jesus Song - "The Horn of Salvation"***

Prayer of Application

"His kingdom now is near
for those with ears to hear."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #92 "Joy to the World" vs 1-3

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessing flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #92 *“Joy to the World”* vs 4

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Psalm 98; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D;
Music: Lowell Mason, 1948, P.D. CCLI #678905

Postlude

A sincere **welcome** to all who have come to worship the Lord! May each of us have our faith increased, our love enhanced, and our courage strengthened. May God’s presence be very real as we approach the throne of grace. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today 12/4	Next Week: 12/11
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Maddie D.	Tim H.
Video	Tim H.	Brandon S.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

First CRC Bulletin

Announcements

December 4, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

A special welcome to Pastor Matt Borst who will be proclaiming God's Word to us this morning. Pastor Matt is the pastor at Faith Community Fellowship and he also teaches Bible at MVC. Pastor Matt and Pastor John are doing a pulpit exchange this morning.

Future Angel Tree Co-coordinators Needed! Every year we have the opportunity to provide approximately Christmas gifts to approximately 25-35 children in the valley whose parent is currently incarcerated. This ministry could not have happened without the leadership of Sylvia Van Zanten who has been the coordinator of it for many years. Sylvia has graciously agreed to help coordinate this ministry one more year, but she would like to have 1-2 other individuals to take the reins next year. If interested, please contact the church office, or Sylvia directly.

Angel Tree: Today after the service you will have the opportunity to pick up an Angel Tree Tag in the Fellowship Hall with a gift suggestion. We are purchasing gifts

for **32 children**. Twenty names were taken last week so that leaves **12 more** gifts to purchase. Please sign your name on the sheet on the table by the name of the child on the Angel Tree Tag that you chose. Each child receives a gift valued at around \$25.00. After buying your gift, please wrap and put the Angel Tree sticker on the outside of the gift. This identifies the child with the gift. Please bring your gift back to the Fellowship Hall and place it on the table by December 11 or before. The families will pick up the gifts on Monday morning December 19. Thank you for your generosity and may you have a wonderful Christmas season. Contact Sylvia Van Zanten at 360-386-7442 if you have any questions.



ANGEL TREE

A Program of Prison Fellowship

Christmas Blessing Project!: It's back!!! This year's neighborhood blessing project is going to be a "Christmas Brownie Mix." A Christmas greeting, recipe, and a brief invitation to our Christmas services will be attached to the jar. The goal is to assemble and deliver 200 jars to our neighbors on **Saturday, December 10**. Assembly will begin at **9 AM** with delivery to the neighborhood to take place immediately after. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend some time serving together and if last year was any indication - it's a lot of fun! ... In the meantime, the following (see below) are some of the ingredients needed for this year's project. Please take the time to sign up accordingly on the lists in the Fellowship Hall and bring the ingredients to church no later than Sunday, Dec. 4. Thank you!

Ingredients Needed:

Flour: **FULFILLED**

Brown Sugar: 56lbs of brown sugar = 9 - 2 lb bags

Sugar: 4 - 5 lb bags

Salt: **FULFILLED**

Baking soda: **FULFILLED**

Cocoa: 16 - 8oz containers

Milk chocolate chips: 17 - 12oz bags

Semi-sweet chocolate chips: 14 - 12oz bags



UPDATE:

Ministry Associate Position Update: In response to various advertisements the council recently received two applications for the ministry associate position. The current plan is to conduct zoom interviews on the evening of December 8 with the hope of potentially recommending one of them to the council and eventually to the congregation as a whole. Please continue to keep the interview team and the church council in your prayers throughout the weeks and months ahead. Thank you!

Save the date: Church potluck January 8!

Christmas Caroling: Our annual Sunday evening Christmas Caroling to friends in Heather Village and to neighbors nearby will take place on **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 PM.** Generally we break out into two different groups, go caroling for an hour or so, and then come back to enjoy some delicious hot chocolate and fellowship. The adults' enthusiasm for such an event is often weather-dependent. Our children usually love it no matter what the weather is like. Either way - great memories are made. We hope to see you there!



OPOP Christmas Basket: Our friend Michael is being released on Tuesday, December 20. He will initially reside in West Seattle and recently we had the opportunity to help set up his new apartment. To celebrate his release we would love to provide him with a generous Christmas gift basket from our church to be delivered sometime between Dec. 21-24. Some suggested items to include would be as follows: Gift cards to Safeway (only 1 block from his apartment), Target, Chocolate, Clif Protein bars, coffee, cookies, Reign energy drinks, salami sticks, and noodles. We would also love to include short any short encouraging notes, Christmas cards, or pictures from children. Whatever you are able to give would be most helpful. We are hoping to put the basket shortly after the Dec. 18 Candlelight service and so that will be the last Sunday to bring things in. Thanks in advance for being willing to partner with us in this ministry!

- OPOP Core Team (Greg B., Linda G., Henry H., Darrel L., and Pastor John)

Please correct the ZIP code for **Danielle Van Zanten** to V0J1Z0.

Worship Service YouTube Links:

November 27: <https://youtu.be/BJGFcKnYcss>

THERE IS NOW A SERMON AUDIO SECTION on the website where you can listen to or download sermons. The current series is now available as well as the 2 other sermons that were preached during this period that were not in the sermon series. To access this new section, click on the “**Worship**” menu link and then select “**Sermons**”.

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TAKE ME HOME

If you are missing any of these super fun items, please feel free to pick them up at no cost!



First CRC offers the option to give your offerings online, including setting up automatic and reoccurring donations. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Tim & Heather VH

Next Week, 12/11: Hank & Sylvia VZ

Coffee Hosts: Joe LC, Katie J., Elly C.

Next Week, 12/11: Randy & Peggy B.

Children in Worship: Angela S., Millie F.
Next Week, 12/11: Angela S., Emmalyn S.

Worship Team: Sheri L., Juli O., Kiera, Caleb, Joel L.
Next Week, 12/11: Stan B., Julie S., Adriana & Tessa S.

Today:
Choir Practice following the service

This Week:

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9AM – Christmas Blessing assembly and distribution

Sunday, Dec., 11, 6:30pm – Christmas Caroling

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Tuesday – December 13 at 7:00am

Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Dec. 18, 6:30pm - CandleLight Service

Christmas Day, 10:00am – Sunday Service

Jan. 8: Church Potluck!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Save the date! Back by popular demand! Hear the acclaimed NOËL ensemble in concert and celebrate the wonder of a medieval Christmas with Celtic and classical harps, flute, strings, and poetry. A freewill offering benefits New Earth Recovery. Warm yourself with song and story, support men and women in recovery, and prepare your heart for the season! See the bulletin boards for a poster with additional information.

**Tuesday December 6, 2022 @ 7:00 pm Bethany Covenant Church
1318 S. 18th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Advent: God Brings Peace - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Look for ways you can be a peacemaker this Advent season. If you have any friends or family members who haven't trusted Jesus, tell them about how he came to earth to bring peace between us and God. You can also find ways to make things easier, less worrisome, or less lonely for people in need. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Groundwork: Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist: Preparing the Way for Jesus - Just like we prepare for Christmas, God prepared the world for salvation. Join Groundwork as we study Luke 1:5-25, 57-66 to witness how Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their son, John the Baptist, prepare the way for Jesus' birth and allow their message to prepare our hearts again for Jesus' second coming. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Love. Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection were all characterized by love. In return, we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Consider how your family or household might do those things more fully in the coming year. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

God's Love at Christmas - Share the warmth of God's love with a person living in poverty through your donation for World Renew's Gift Catalog this Christmas. Give a life-changing gift to a family that is facing hardship and hunger in the year ahead. Donate today at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement.

Email the office at secretary@firstcrmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Please keep **Bailey Ackermann**, daughter of Andrew and Bree Ackermann, and granddaughter of Greg and Tish Ackermann, in your prayers. Bailey was taken to Children's Hospital in Seattle this week due to a low white blood cell count and possible internal bleeding. Pray that she will receive the medical care she needs at Children's and that she will also experience a full recovery in the days and weeks ahead.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Please pray for **Terry's mom, Jeanne Beezhold**, as she has been recently diagnosed with a form of lung cancer. Remember her especially on Wednesdays when she has her chemotherapy treatments at the Skagit Regional Health Cancer Care Center in Mount Vernon.

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus, Shirley Boonstra** and **Adelaida Vega** as they continue to fight their cancer.

SHUT INS: *Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp* at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; *Marcella DeVries* at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, *Marjean DeGroot* at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; *Mary Koopmans* at Where the Heart is in Burlington; *Hans & Aileen Meishke* at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, *Adrianna Swanson*, and *Clarence Vander Griend* at Home Place in Burlington; *Sally Reehoorn* at Creekside in Burlington; *Bev Van Slageren* at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday November 28 - *Resonate: Uganda*

Pray for discipleship opportunities that Resonate missionaries Josh and Mandy Shaarda facilitate in prisons in Uganda. Give thanks for the many individuals who have found grace and hope in Christ through this ministry. Pray for continued growth in this ministry.

Tuesday November 29 - *World Renew: Giving Tuesday*

Today is Giving Tuesday, an international day of charitable giving. Nearly one billion people are experiencing food insecurity around the world due to conflict, climate change, and economic downturn. Please join us in asking God to bring hope to these people in need. Pray that they may gain sustainability and that assistance may be available to all who have experienced loss.

Wednesday November 30 - *Raise Up: Timothy Leadership Training*

After a long delay caused by the pandemic, a group of 21 pastors from the Gereja Kristus Tuhan church in Indonesia met for five days of TLT training in September 2022 to complete their final courses. Thank God for their achievements, pray as they now train others, and pray for the 150+ TLT groups worldwide who are resuming training activities.

Thursday December 1 - *Justice ministry: Canadian Gathering*

Four people are being nominated by each classis in Canada to attend the Canadian National Gathering in May 2023. This gathering will focus on Indigenous reconciliation, building on work of the Hearts Exchanged program. Please pray for the nomination process and for all who will be attending.

Friday December 2 - *Resonate Global Mission: Campus ministry*

“Pray for the students we are working with,” asks Brett Erickson, a Resonate partner campus minister with Geneva Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa. “Each of them is dealing with various difficult situations; we want to be able to come alongside them well and ultimately to point them to the hope that can only be found in Christ.”

Saturday December 3 - *ReFrame Ministries: China*

ReFrame’s Chinese ministry team is developing a new e-reader app to make biblical materials available inside China. Pray for wisdom in the development process, for a successful and timely launch, and for opportunities to share this resource widely.

Sunday December 4 - *Calvin University: Leadership*

Calvin University requests prayers for its new president, Dr. Wiebe Boer, and the leadership team of Calvin as they seek to create a vibrant culture of Christian faith and practice on campus. Pray for wisdom, courage, and clarity. Pray for faculty and staff as they teach and disciple students. Pray that students may come to know Jesus and/or grow in their faith in him.