

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
Pastor John Knoester
December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

* Please stand in body or in spirit

“O come, desire of nations, bind”

Prelude

Welcome

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #56 v. 1-4

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1744), P.D.; Music: Christian F. Witt’s *Psalmodia Sacra*,
1715; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John W. Wilson © 1983 Hope
Publishing Company; CCLI# 678905

* Call to Worship:

Leader: God comes as a light, grace-filled yet baby-frail.

**People: Now may our hearts cradle you,
our voices sing to you,
our spirits leap with you,
and our hearts dance with you.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #60 v. 1-4

"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
2. He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
the wounded soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to
enrich the humbled poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1735); based on Isaiah 61:1-2, P.D.

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

*(During the mutual greeting those lighting the Advent candle
are invited forward)*

"All peoples in one heart and mind."

Announcements

Advent Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Song of Response: LUYH #157 v. 1-2 *"Meekness and Majesty"*

1. Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain

*Oh, what a mystery-meekness and majesty;
bow down and worship, for this is your God.*

2. Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on a cross,
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
and, as they crucify, prays, "Father, forgive."

Refrain

*"Meekness and Majesty" Text and Music: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
© 1986, Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music
Publishing CCLI# 678905*

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: *"All Praise to Thee"* - Elaine Hagenburg

*(Following the offering the children are invited forward
for the Children's Message)*

Children's Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the children's message children ages 3-3rd grade are invited
to make their way to Children in Worship in the Fellowship Hall)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #844 v. 1,2,3,5

"Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord"

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,

in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.

3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.

Acapella

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974
Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974,
1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

"Bid all our sad divisions cease,"

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:21-40, II Corinthians 5:21

Prayer of Illumination

Message: *"Simeon's Song – 'Light to the Gentiles'*

Time of Prayer

"And be thyself our King of peace."

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #61 v. 1, 2, 4, 7

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

4. O come, thou branch of Jesse's stem,
unto thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

7. O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace.

Refrain

Words: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, P.D.;
Music: French processional, 15- c. P.D.; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006
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* We Are Sent to Sing: (Based on Isaiah 41:8-10)

Leader: In Isaiah 41, God says,
"But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob,
whom I have chosen,
you descendants of Abraham my friend,
I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, 'You are my servant';
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
Friends, the good news of this Advent season
Is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way
of hope and peace.

**People: Thanks be to the Advent God,
who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

* God's Blessing

* Parting Hymn of Praise: LUYH #97 v. 1-2

"Lord, Bid Your Servant God in Peace"

1. Lord, bid your servant go in peace;
your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
this child so long foretold.
2. This is the Savior of the world,
the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.

Words: Scripture, from Luke 2:29-32; *Nunc dimittis*; tr. James Quinn,

Postlude

Tech Team	Today 12/18 AM	Today 12/18 PM	Next Week: 12/25
Sound:	Mardick S.	Tim H.	Mardy S.
Projection:	Hannah VH	Beth B.	Tim H.
Video:	Dick G.	France K.	France K.
Offering:	General Fund	Neighbors in	General Fund

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

December 18, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY :

Angel Tree - Catherine VK and Heidi B. have graciously agreed to step up and be the new coordinators! Thank you so much for continuing this meaningful Christmas Blessing!!

OPOP Christmas Basket: You can still drop off gifts this morning that will be wrapped for Michael tonight. Thank you!

Jennaya's Eagle Eyes found a mistake in the new church directory: **Please change the mailbox for Luke and Bailey Visser to #196!** Also **Reinie and Jill Rouw** have a new email address: **jillrouw@gmail.com**

Worship Service YouTube Links: December 11: <https://youtu.be/f4RWm7qjWT8>

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

Save the date: Church potluck January 8!

Pastor Michael Kooy will be retiring from ministry in January 2023. If you have stories, cards, or photos you would like to send as he takes this next step in life, you can email them to Pastor Kelsi Jones at kelsijoann@gmail.com or send them to Grace Community Church 10415 S Kedvale Ave Oak Lawn, IL 60453 by January 5.



Pastor John will be out of the office from Dec. 26-Jan. 4. If you have an emergency, please contact your district elder. Thank you!

Beth will be out of her office from Dec. 23-Jan. 3. Sylvia Van Zanten will be graciously filling in while she is gone, so send your announcements as per usual during the week between Christmas and the New Year.

Please get any Announcements/Prayer Guide items to Beth by Weds. the 21st, 9 AM this next week. Thank you.

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)

Last Chance!

If you own or know who owns the items in the Lost an Found table, please grab them today, as they will soon disappear into the back room at Bargains.

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CALENDAR:

Greeters: Hank & Sylvia VZ

Next Week, 12/25: Greg & Tish A.

Coffee Hosts: Dick & Linda G.

Next Week, 12/25: Clarence & Eleanor K.

Children in Worship: Sheri L, Rhyson O.

Next Week, 12/25: Juli O., Nellie VDH

Worship Team: Eliot B., Heidi B., Kayla & Ella VH

12/18PM: Henry & Pam VZ, Sylvia VZ

Next week, 12/25: TBD

Today:

Choir Practice following the service

Tonight, 6:30pm – CandleLight Service

This Week:

GEMS Christmas Party: Weds. at 6:30pm

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Tuesday – December 27 at 7:00am

Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Christmas Day, 10:00am – Sunday Service

Jan. 8: Church Potluck!

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

Christmas Possibility - Next week we celebrate the possibility of being made right with God, starting with the birth of Jesus. He showed us the way to give to people in need. You can give a goat, a family water filter, or a tree pruning kit from World Renew's Gift Catalog at worldrenew.net/gifts, or call 800-552-7972.

Groundwork: Joseph: The Virgin Birth and Prophecies Fulfilled - It isn't until Joseph receives angelic confirmation that he believes the miracle of the virgin birth. Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 1:18-25 to discuss how this fulfills Old Testament prophecies and gives us confidence to trust in God's continued presence and faithfulness in our lives as we prepare for his second coming. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - During Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us peace. In what area of your life do you most need God's peace? How might you be a peacemaker this week? Wonder and talk about that this week. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)

Begin 2023 with Free CRC Leadership Training - Register now to take the Thriving Essentials virtual training in January at no cost (limit 25 persons). The two, 2-hour-long Zoom sessions (Jan. 11 + 18) can help get all church leaders on the same page concerning the key concepts of Mission, Discipleship, Discernment, and Leadership. Take the class for yourself, then decide if attendance would benefit your core church leadership. More info at: crcna.org/Thrive

Advent: Love as an Action - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. People usually think of love as a feeling. Did you ever think of love as an action? Well, God's love is active! Listen now at [kidscorner.net](https://www.kidscorner.net) and check out all the new content.





How can
we
PRAY
for you?

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 **Alice De Vries** in your prayers. She recently suffered a mini-stroke and has also developed a blood clot in her carotid artery. She is currently recovering, but she is still very weak and tired. The hope is that she will be able to return home early next week. In the meantime, please pray for renewed strength and for full healing 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; **Hank & Anjean VanderVeen** at *The Bridge* in Mount Vernon; **Sally Reehoorn** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at family in Grandview, WA.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday December 12 - World Renew: Child health

In vulnerable areas where World Renew serves, many infants and young children do not have access to safe water or appropriate nutrition. This can lead to lifelong health issues. Please pray for these children and for the work of our partners in rural communities to educate and support families with young children in their first 1,000 days of life (pregnancy through 2 years of age).

Tuesday December 13 - ReFrame: Guinea

Marc Nabie, ReFrame's French-ministry leader, recently visited the country of Guinea, where he began a new radio partnership and shared a biblical message on the air. Pray for new listeners in Guinea as they find and respond to this programming in their region.

Wednesday December 14 - Resonate: Lithuania

Resonate missionary Joel Altena, who serves with LCC International University in Lithuania, is mentoring two student leaders through a leadership development program. "We ask God to strengthen these students in their leadership and character as well as their knowledge of God," said Joel and his wife, Hailey.

Thursday December 15 - ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE

We are excitedly preparing for SERVE 2023! This year we have a capacity of over 1,000 participants across 11 states and provinces. Registration opened Nov. 1, and spots are filling up quickly. Please pray for churches and individuals as they register for SERVE 2023.

Friday December 16 - Calvin Theological Seminary: Christmas season

Many of our students, especially international students, are not able to travel home to be with family for the holidays. Pray for those who travel as well as for those who are apart from family during this season, that tidings of comfort and joy may overflow in their hearts this year.

Saturday December 17 - World Renew: Food security

Nearly 1 billion people in the world face food insecurity due to conflict, climate change, and economic downturn. But in Christ there is hope! Through village savings and loan programs, people in poverty can increase food production and income, gaining enough to eat and provide for others. Pray that life-saving programs like these will continue to flourish.

Sunday December 18 - Resonate: Cambodia

"Many young leaders feel alone and isolated. Pray that they may have opportunities to join formational communities where they can grow in the ways of Jesus," asks Justin Van Zee, a Resonate missionary in Cambodia.