



God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



Christmas Day Service
December 25, 2022 ♦ 10 am

Christmas Morning Worship

December 25, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

–Luke 2:11

*“Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;”*

Prelude

Opening Carol: *“Sussex Carol”* – Elaine Hagenberg

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship

Leader: All God’s people – Boys and girls, women, men:

People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels;

People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: All who need the Savior,
all who long for comfort.

People: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

* Opening Carol: LUYH#76 v. 1,3,4 *“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!*

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

Refrain

4. 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

* The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7

* Carol: LUYH #92 v. 1,2,4 "Joy to the World"

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.

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

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

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

***"Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"***

Advent Candle Reading

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Adoration

The Shepherds and the Angels: Luke 2:8-20

* Carol: LUYH #80 v. 1-3 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain

- Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Refrain

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;
adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.; CCLI: 678905

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

Children’s Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the message children ages 3 – 3rd grade
are excused for children and worship)*

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #82 v. 1-3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Words: French, 18th c.; tr. Crown of Jesus Music, 1862, alt., P.D.: Music:
French, 18th c. P.D; CCLI #678905

**“Joyful, all ye nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies;”**

Introduction to our Two Meditations

Prayer of Illumination

Christmas Meditation – “The Announcement of the Angel”

Time of Prayer

Ministry of Music: LUYH #430 “You Are Mine” -

(Solo)

1. “I will come to you in the silence.
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice.
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

(Solo)

2. “I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

(Duet)

Refrain

*Do not be afraid; I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you, and you are mine.”*

(Solo)

3. “I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

(All)

Refrain

(Solo)

4. "I am the Word that leads all to freedom.
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain (All)

Music & Words by Joel Houston; ©2005 Hillsong Music
Publishing: CCLI #678905

**Christmas Meditation – "The Angels' and Shepherds' Song
– Peace on Earth"**

Time of Prayer

- * Hymn of Application: LUYH #87 v. 1,2,5 "Once In Royal David's City"
1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
 2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.
 5. Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.

**"With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Offering: L.O.V.E. Inc., C.A.R.E. (Pregnancy Choices)

Offertory: Sylvia Van Zanten and Danielle Van Zanten

Closing Prayer

* Benediction:

Leader: Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.
May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy
and peace.

People: O Lord, give us peace.

Leader: Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.
May his birth among us renew your hope.

People: O Lord, give us hope.

Leader: Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoic-

ing.

People: O Lord, give us joy.

Leader: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. Amen.

* Parting Praise: LUYH #84 "Ere Zig God"

Ere zij God! Ere zij God in den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
in de mensen een welbehagen.
Ere zij God in den hoge! Ere zij God in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
vrede op aarde,
in de mensen, in de mensen een welbehagen, in de mensen,
een welbehagen, een welbehagen.
Ere zij God! Ere zij God in den hoge, in den hoge, in den hoge!
Vrede op aarde, vrede op aarde,
in de mensen een welbehagen. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest,
 in the highest, in the highest!
 Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
 to the people whom God delights in.
 Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the highest!
 Peace be on earth, peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
 peace be on earth, to the people,
 to the people whom God delights in,
 to the people whom God delights in, whom God delights in.
 Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest,
 in the highest, in the highest!
 Peace be on earth, peace be on earth,
 to the people whom God delights in.
 Amen. Amen.

Words: Luke 2:14; para. F.A. Schultz, ca. 1870; tr. Psalter Hymnal, 1987,
 © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resource

Postlude

Christmas Welcome! We joyfully greet our members and their loved ones and all our visitors on this Christmas Day! We remember together, with awe and gratitude, how God shone his light into our darkness on that first Christmas. We pray that we may be bearers of his light to all who languish in the darkness of poverty, illness and fear. May we share with them the light that shines from the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tech Team	Today 12/25	Next Week: 1/1
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	Tim H.	Maddie D.
Video:	France K.	Tim H.
Offering:	Neighbors in Need	General Fund

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)

First CRC

Bulletin Announcements

December 25, 2022

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Remember, there is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL until Jan. 15!

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting Sunday evenings on Jan. 8 and Jan 22 to finish up their series of studies.

Angel Tree: All gifts have been picked up by the family or delivered to the children for our Angel Tree project. Thank you to everyone who took part in this. The families were appreciative of the gifts that were received. May you have a Blessed Christmas.

Worship Service YouTube Links: December 18: <https://youtu.be/mM7a5ctvlvY>

Candlelight Service: <https://youtu.be/u2ltqB3Y0DI>

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://firstrcmv.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 AveOak 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.

Check out the copies of Today's Christian Living on the shelf in the hallway and various **Christmas greetings** on the bulletin board by the kitchen!

CALENDAR:

Greeters: Greg & Tish A.

Next Week, 1/1: Tim & Heather VH

Coffee Hosts: Clarence & Eleanor K.

Next Week, 1/1: Randy & Peggy B.

Children in Worship: Juli O., Nellie VDH

Next Week, 1/1: Alyssa A., Myra VDB

Worship Team:

Next week, 1/1: Greg B, Mandi D., France K., Nellie VDH

Today: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Upcoming Dates to Note:

Tuesday – January 3 at 7:00am

Men's Bible Study at Shari's Restaurant

Jan. 8: Church Potluck!

Ladies Bible Study

Jan. 22: Ladies Bible Study

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

CRC COMMUNICATIONS.:

Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel - March 6 – March 17, 2023. Experience a refreshing renewal of your faith, and gain a deeper understanding of the Bible, as you tour the biblical lands with teaching host, Pastor Peter Tuininga, and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See many of the biblical places (Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Jericho, and much more), and gain spiritual and historical insights which will make the Bible come alive for you. For complete information, cost, and registration, go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or call Peter Tuininga: 1 289 877 8433 or e-mail: peter.tuininga@gmail.com

Jesus is All of Christmas - As we give and receive gifts today, we celebrate Jesus, God's gift to us! Will you add someone who lives in poverty to your Christmas giving today? Change a life with an item from World Renew's Gift Catalog. Give online at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

Christmas: God's Gift of Jesus - Check out the kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Because God has given us all the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love at Christmas, we are able to share those gifts too. When we share the gifts of Christmas, we point others to the ultimate gift: Jesus. Listen now at kidscorner.net and check out all the new content.

Family Fire - Family Fire is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

Groundwork: Jesus, Shepherds, and Angels: A Savior is Born - The story of Jesus Christ's birth is wonderfully familiar, but slowing down to read and study it again brings comfort and renewed hope. Join Groundwork as we read and discuss the good news of Jesus' birth and the magnificent message the angels delivered to the shepherds in Luke 2:1-20. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

At-home Faith Formation Tip - Today we light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that the light of Christ has come into the world. Light a Christ candle in your own home today as you celebrate. Consider lighting a candle at each mealtime in the coming week (or year!) to remind you that Jesus is always with you. (Tip from Faith Formation; bit.ly/CRCFaithFormation)



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrcmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW REQUESTS:

Sally Reehorn was taken to the hospital last Friday with a low oxygen level and an elevated white count. Some of this was caused due to a buildup of fluid around the heart. She is doing much better now and if all goes well she will return to Creekside in the next couple of days. Please pray that she can go back to Creekside before Christmas.

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Alice De Vries home now and is slowly but surely recovering from her recent mini-strokes. At the present time she would prefer phone visits over in-person visits. She is very grateful for all the many encouraging cards that have been sent and prayers offered on her behalf. Please pray for a full recovery for Alice in the weeks ahead!

Please pray for **Adelaida Vega** who had a colostomy procedure this past week. Although very complicated, it was successful. She is now recovering in the hospital. Please continue to pray for her and her family during this time.

Please pray for **Terry's mom, Jeanne Beezhold**, as she has been 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 19 - *Safe Church: Peace*

In this season we celebrate the One who came to restore all things. Pray that all who are affected by abuse will find healing, restoration, and freedom in Christ, and that our church communities will be places of peace and safety.

Tuesday December 20 - *Candidacy Committee: Leadership*

We give thanks for the many leaders God has been drawing to the Christian Reformed Church. Please ask the Lord to give them strength

Wednesday December 21 - *Edmonton Native Healing Centre:*

Thanks and support

Creator, we give thanks for a season of people returning to the circle after isolating during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful for new opportunities challenging us to increase capacity in the area of dentistry. May we develop a strong relationship with University of Alberta contacts in dentistry and raise sufficient support for obtaining dental equipment. Creator, thank you that ENHC remains a sanctuary of hope, peace, and love.

Thursday December 22 - *Resonate: Michigan*

A Resonate church plant partner in Michigan is reaching people with a Muslim background. The church planter asks you to pray for him, his wife, and his congregation as they develop relationships with their Muslim neighbors.

Friday December 23 - *ReFrame: India*

A man in India has been a Christian for many years, listening to programs from our partners in India. He recently professed his faith publicly and donated property to a local church. Praise God for his testimony of faith in a country where many people, including him, risk persecution for their belief in Christ.

Saturday December 24 - *Communications: Christmas Eve*

Christ entered the messiness of our world to bring healing, reconciliation, and life. Pray that he will fill our hearts and lives so that we will be emboldened to share his love and good news at Christmas and throughout the year.

Sunday December 25 - *World Renew: Christmas Day*

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to love and serve our brothers and sisters around the world. We pray for a peaceful, joyful, and blessed Christmas with God at the center of all activities as we celebrate the birth of the Savior. We ask for peace in the midst of disaster, conflict, and other unexpected events that happen in people's lives. and wisdom as they move forward on their journey toward candidacy. Ask also that God will continue to send more harvest workers!

