

DEVOTED

ACTS 2:42-47



December 2, 2018

Worship Services: 10 AM and 5 PM

Church office hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

616-451-8467 Office@CalvinCRC.org www.CalvinCRC.org

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:42

First Sunday of Advent

Ten o’clock

December 2, 2018

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” [#69]

Irish Traditional

Welcome and Announcements

Spoken Call to Worship

Lighting the candle of HOPE

Ethan Baker

Processional Hymn: “Come, Lord Jesus”

(The congregation will remain seated during the singing of this hymn)

Come, ___ Lord Je - sus. Come, ___ Lord Je - sus.
Come, Hope of all the world. Come, Hope of all the world.
Our hearts are o - pen. Our hearts are o - pen.

Come, ___ Lord Je - sus; come and be born in our hearts.
Come, Hope of all the world; come and be born in our hearts.
Our hearts are o - pen; come and be born in our hearts.

Anthem: “Light of Hope, Light of Peace”

Mark Patterson

Light of hope, light of peace, you are just the light we need,

Refrain

Shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.

Light of hope, light of peace, promise of the love he brings,

Light of hope, light of peace, gift of joy that gladly rings,

Advent Reading and Prayer

Kate Triezenberg

Anthem: “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Becki Slagle Mayo

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Light the candle, watch and pray,

The Child of Hope will come to save.

* Opening Hymn: “With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim”

#66:1,2,4

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
despair and rebellious pride fill the earth:
some people, crushed by failure
or broken by pain
give up on life and hope and You;
others, shaken, but still hoping for human triumph,
work feverishly to realize their dreams.
As believers in God, we also struggle with the spirits of this age.
We are not always confident
that your light shines in the present darkness
or that it will fill the earth when Christ appears again.
We lose hope.
Merciful Father, forgive our hopelessness.
Heal our aching hearts.
Remind us that you hold this world with fierce love.
Give us courage to declare with joy, trust, and hope
that our world belongs to You.
Amen.

Hymn of Confession: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#56:1,2,4

Assurance of Pardon

This Jesus, the Child of Hope, long-expected by the Jews, has come.
He has paid the penalty of death.
He has risen!
As you wait for him once again,
may your longing heart be filled with joy,
knowing that he has already set you free.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise be to God! Amen.

Anthem: "Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven"

Keith & Kristyn Getty

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven,
Born as a little baby under a wondrous star.
Like us, crying, He takes His first breath,
Held by His mother, helpless, close to her beating heart.
Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers,
Come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God.

Jesus, King of the highest heaven,
Learning to take His first steps that He might bring us life.
Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows,
He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right.
Jesus, take away every darkness; steady my simple footsteps
That I might in Your goodness live as a child of God.

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

#67:1-3

(Children may come forward during the last stanza)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

Congregation: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Congregation: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

* Hymn of Preparation: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#61:1-4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

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Sermon: **THE PRAYERS**

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

#69:1-3

Presentation of Offerings and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory Prayer: Cindy Brink

Offering for Inner City Christian Federation

Offertory: “O Holy Night”

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* Benediction

* Doxology: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

#69:4

Though the nations rage from age to age,

We remember who holds us fast:

God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard

Is the promise which holds us bound,

Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,

Who is turning the world around.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring,

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,

And the world is about to turn! Amen.

* Postlude: “Ding Dong Merrily on High”

Liturgists: Pastoral Intern Lynette van de Hoef and Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Pianist: Gwen Hendrikse

Ministry of Music: Orchestra, Cherub and Covenant Choirs

Orchestra Director: Amy Netz

Children’s Choir Directors: Maria VandenBosch, Amy Netz

Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 2, 2018

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM and 5 PM

Morning worship: On this first Sunday of Advent, our children's choirs and the Calvin Church orchestra lead us in worship. Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches the final sermon in our series on the activities of the church—prayer—from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.

Evening worship: Lisa Meyer preaches from Deuteronomy 1:19-33, "Great Expectations."

Our Advent banner visually proclaims the beginning of the liturgical year. Its design reflects a world awaiting the Messiah, with the circular form representing the familiar Scriptural metaphor—Light. Its implication is both past and present. As Israel did long ago, so are we to prepare ourselves and this world with steadfast minds and joyful hearts that he may return in the fullness of time.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 9

Morning worship: On this second Sunday of Advent, Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Luke 3:1-6, "A Level Path." Our Sanctuary, Covenant, and Cherub Choirs will lead us in music. The offering will be for Mission Outreach.

Evening worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers will preach from Malachi 3:1-7, "God Coming Near." The offering will be for the GEMS Girls' Club.

December Worship Schedule:

December 16 AM	Children's Christmas Program
PM	Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys
December 23 AM	Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys
PM	Lessons and Carols
December 25 AM	Rev. Brad Zwiers
December 30 AM	Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys
PM	Old Year's Night worship - Rev. Laura Smit

2019 PREACHING AND FAITH FORMATION SERIES: For the first three months of 2019, Calvin Church will have a special focus on a beloved and foundational document of our tradition, the Heidelberg Catechism. Every other Sunday (1/13, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24), the sermon in the morning service will be structured around catechism themes, and after worship everyone from grade 9 through adult is invited to join a time of conversation based on M. Craig Barnes' book *Body and Soul: Reclaiming the Heidelberg Catechism*. More details will come later, but for now you are invited to purchase the book by signing the list in the narthex. \$15 can be paid to Calvin CRC when the books arrive. Today is the last day to sign up to purchase a book.

COUNCIL NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: At its meeting on Tuesday, November 20, the Council received and approved the proposed budget for 2019. This will be presented for approval on December 9 after the morning service.

CHURCH FAMILY

On behalf of our entire family, we would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the members of Calvin Church. Your many thoughtful expressions of support provided us comfort and encouraged us through John's illness and passing. Calvin Church was very special to John; it was an important part of his life.

God has touched our lives through many of you, and we are grateful for this community of believers.

June Primus, Tom and Gwen Hendrikse, John and Leanne Hendrikse

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

TLC and CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

2 - 4 year-olds "The Shepherds"

Cheri, Tyler

K - 2nd grade "How the Church Tells Time"

Worship Center children are encouraged to continue their giving for missions and to bring their offerings for Family Assistance each Sunday.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE: Our children are practicing for the Christmas Program, which takes place during the Sunday morning worship service on December 16. On Saturday, December 15, the children will rehearse from 9 to 11:30 AM and have an opportunity to decorate Christmas cookies.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

THE GIVING TREE: KidsHope has a Christmas Tree with yellow stars hanging from its branches in the Atrium. Each star has a school supply item written on it. We would like you to take a star, purchase the item, bring it to church, and put it under the Giving Tree. Thank you!

CALLING ALL SINGERS: This year's Festival Choir will begin rehearsals in the balcony on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:30 PM. We invite everyone who loves to sing to join us for four rehearsals as we prepare music for the Candlelight Service on December 23. All are welcome! Please talk to Ken Bos or any Sanctuary Choir member if you have questions.

FISH FOR MY PEOPLE: FISH day for Calvin Church is Thursday, December 6. Volunteer drivers can expect a call on December 5 if you are needed.

FAMILY PROMISE: Calvin church will be hosting Family Promise families December 9-16. All help is appreciated. The sign-up board is near the kitchen.

GLOBAL GIFTS is hosting a night out for Christmas shoppers on Thursday, December 13, from 6 - 9 PM, with 20 percent of the proceeds going to Calvin Church's Family Assistance. Coffee, wine, and savory goodies are on the house! This easily accessible store on 28th Street between Kalamazoo and Breton supports families in third world countries and offers an amazing variety of gifts that are not found in other big box stores.

WINTER COATS for adults (especially men) needed: If you have an outgrown or no longer used coat taking up space in your closet, please consider donating to Family Assistance. Thank you!

ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS: If you are willing, please bring baked but undecorated Christmas cookies to the upstairs kitchen Monday, December 9, through Thursday, December 13, between 8 AM and 4:30 PM. The children will be decorating them on Saturday, December 15.

HOMEBOUND CARD BAGS: Seasons' greetings for our homebound members will once again be collected in the Narthex. We are grateful that the GEMS decorated the bags. A list of the homebound is available at the card table. Cards may be placed in the bags until December 23.

<i>Today, Sunday, December 2</i>	
9:40a	Atrium Greeters: Celia Steele, Kris Bergh
	East Greeters: John & Eunice Stegink
	Nursery Supervisor: Kim Wierenga
	Nursery Helpers: Dave & Becky Baker, Ella Jansen, Erin Hubka
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Doris Ridders
	Coffee Servers: Bulthuis, Koeman
11:20a	Church School
3:00p	Light of Christ Community meets in the Fellowship Hall
6:30p	CYG Christmas Party at Lannings
<i>Tuesday, December 4</i>	
9:30a	Family Assistance
6:00p	Executive Committee meets in the Conference Room
6:30p	Building and Grounds Committee meets in the Lounge
<i>Wednesday, December 5</i>	
5:00p	Family Supper in the Fellowship Hall
5:30p	Joyringers
6:00p	Family Assistance Building open for volunteers
6:15p	Cherub Choir <i>and</i> Covenant Choir (Triezenberg)
	Allegro Ringers
7:00p	GEMS, Cadets, 78ers
7:30p	Sanctuary Choir
<i>Thursday, December 6</i>	
9:30a	Family Assistance
6:30p	Eastown Basketball
<i>Next Sunday, December 9, Family Promise begins</i>	
9:30a	Prayer Time (Prayer Room)
9:40a	Atrium Greeters: LeRoy & Anjean Stegink
	East Greeters: Bill & Rosemary Stevenson
	Nursery Supervisor: Rachel Rayburn
	Nursery Helpers: Kyle Heys, Suzi Stekete, Grace Spoelma, Henry TerBeek
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Mary Brummel
	Coffee Servers: Schoone-Jongen, Sytsma
	Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:20a	Church School
11:30a	College Lunch in the Catacomb
	Congregational Care Committee meeting