

Prepare  
the way  
for the  
Lord,  
make  
straight  
paths  
for  
him.

Luke 3:4



December 9, 2018

Worship Services: 10 AM and 5 PM

**The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”  
Luke 3:4**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

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

Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director: Kenneth Bos

Advent Readers: Luke Spoelma and Charlie Molenbeek

Candlelighter: Lucy Molenbeek

Ministry of Music: Cherub and Covenant Choirs, Sanctuary Choir

Choir Directors: Amy Netz and Maria VandenBosch

Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg

Advent Bells: Jacqueline Lanning, Clara Tolsma

Scripture Reader: Lynn McBroom

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**Ten o'clock**

**December 9, 2018**

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**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Prelude: “Savior of the Nations, Come” [#74]

P. Manz, G. Near, H. Distler

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Lighting the candle of PEACE

Lucy Molenbeek

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, O Prince of Peace. Come, O Prince of Peace.  
Our hearts are o - pen. Our hearts are o - pen.

Come, Lord Je - sus; come and be born in our hearts.  
Come, O Prince of Peace; 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

Luke Spoelma, Charlie Molenbeek

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 Peace will come to save.

\* Opening Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

#60:1-4

\* God's Greeting

## WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Prince of Peace, in your mercy hear our prayer.

There are many times we think we love you well, O God.

But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart,  
and all our mind, and all our strength,

we confess that our love for you is a diluted love,

made tired and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.

Our love seems pure only for brief moments;

soon our affections are drawn away.

How easily our devotion dies.

**Forgive us, O Lord; in deep mercy spare us,**

**and in grace rekindle our love for you and your world.**

**In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn of Confession: "O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock"

#64:1,2

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem: "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"

C. Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,

Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,

Lift up your voice, shout the good news:

Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
He will carry the lambs in his arms,  
He will ever keep them safe from harm.  
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,  
He who fashioned the earth and the sea.  
From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, He.  
Behold, behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,  
He will rule with mercy and truth,  
Hope of the nations. Light of all the world.  
He will love the little children.

He will hold them in his arms.  
Love him and trust him as a child,  
Behold your Lord comes to you.  
Trust him as a child.

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

front cover of hymnal

\* Song of Response: "Joy to the World"

#92:1-4

## 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: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

#70:1-4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-6

page 834

Sermon: **A LEVEL PATH**

Prayer of Application

## WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

\* Hymn of Response: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

#74:1,2,5,7

Presentation of Offerings and Passing of Friendship Pads

Moment for Missions

Offering for Mission Outreach

Offertory: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” [#821] F. D. Ashdown

\* Benediction

\* Doxology: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

#70:5

**All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

\* Postlude: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” [#70]

Johnson, Cherwien

Congregational meeting following the worship service.

## Calvin CRC Announcements for December 9, 2018

### WORSHIP Today, 10 AM and 5 PM

*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.

### WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 16

*Morning worship:* The children of Calvin Church will lead us by presenting a program of story and song, looking forward to Christmas. The offering will be for the Ministry Fund.

*Evening worship:* Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Luke 3:7-18, and the offering will be for our community care goals.

### **December Worship Schedule:**

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

### CHURCH FAMILY

We give thanks to God for the birth of **Aaliyah Marietta Talitha Colago**, who was welcomed on Sunday, December 2, by parents **Miles and Sarah Colago**, big brother **Malachi**, and grandparents **Bert and Julie Bowden** (district #8).

Thank you, Calvin Church, for your cards, phone calls, prayers, and kind words after the recent death of my dad.

*John and Diane Joling*

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES:**

- Bob & Jan DeVries: no home phone
- Roger and Judy Faber: District 9, no home phone
- Kurt & Dorothy Frisch: home phone 616-259-9221
- Teresa Herrema: room #306
- Carl Kromminga: Raybrook Nursing #329
- Marie VanderPloeg: Raybrook Nursing #311
- Lorraine Warlick: DeVos Center, 2121 Raybrook St. SE #135

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES**

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### **TLC and CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

2 - 4 year-olds "The Wisemen"

Cheri, Tyler

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade "On Our Way to Bethlehem"

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

**CHILDREN'S ADVENT BANNER:** During Advent, the children are led to their own worship time with our Christ candle banner. The fabrics and colors remind us of "waiting" and "royalty" as we long for our Lord, the King of Kings. The Christ candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world. Notice that the light is going out in all directions—the Holy Spirit is active in each of us and throughout the entire world.

**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**

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**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Our final lunch of the semester is today! If you're a college student or college-aged, please join us downstairs in the Catacomb for delicious food and good conversation. We'll aim to start eating shortly after 11:30 OR immediately following the congregational meeting, whichever comes first. See you there!

**SENIORS:** As the year ends, join the 50+ Friendship Breakfast at Russ' on 28<sup>th</sup> Street tomorrow morning at 8:30. Warm up with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate and enjoy friendly conversation with fellow seniors.

**BOOK CLUB:** Join us at 4:00 PM on Monday, December 10, as we meet in the Lounge to discuss *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schiff.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets Wednesday, December 12, at 4:00 PM in the Conference Room. Anyone dealing in any way with the effects of cancer is invited to attend.

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

**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.

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

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE BABY IN YOUR LIFE:** The Family Assistance display near the nursery has several handmade items that are available. Sharon Hecker, Linda Fridsma, or Kim Fredricks can help you out. The items are not priced but can be purchased for a donation to Family Assistance.

**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!

**CALVIN ON-LINE:** If you use **Facebook** and "like" Calvin Church, you will get weather-related announcements, worship service information, and posts relating to our members. Our church **webpage**, CalvinCRC.org, contains information such as the coming month's worship and preaching schedule, video of our worship services, and Sunday's bulletin (posted there on Thursday afternoon).

**SEVERE WEATHER POLICY:** In case of severe weather and a need to cancel church activities during the week, the cancellation notice will be posted on our Facebook page, News 8, WOOD-TV, www.woodtv.com, WOTV 4 and WXSP-TV by 3:00 PM. In addition, the church office will contact the choir directors or group leaders and notify them of the cancellation. If severe weather requires the cancellation of any worship service, notice will be posted at least one hour before the start of the scheduled service.



## **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SOLSTICE CONCERT:** For the twenty-first year, a small group of professional musicians will present an evening of serenity and beauty in the Trinity United Methodist Church sanctuary to celebrate the Winter Solstice. This year's Solstice concert is Tuesday, December 18, at 7:30 PM. The theme is "Starry Night" and includes music, candlelight, and readings designed to provide a quiet respite in the midst of the busy holiday season. Participants include Nancy Summers, Dane Addington, Bonnie Bierma, Stephanie Wiltse, Margie Gage, Kenneth Bos, and Catherine McMichael. There is no charge for the concert; it is the musicians' gift to the community. The church is located at 1100 Lake Drive SE near Eastown in Grand Rapids; phone 616-456-7168. For more information, contact Stephanie Wiltse: [stephanie.wiltse@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.wiltse@gmail.com)

**The Voices of Victory** will be holding their annual Old Year's concert on Monday evening, December 31, at Grandville's First Reformed Church - 3060 Wilson Ave., Grandville, MI 49418 (across the street to the east of the Grandville Public Library). You are invited to come and go as you please at any time between 8 and 11 PM. Refreshments will be served. A freewill offering will be taken for Georgetown Harmony Homes. Join the Voices of Victory and their guests, the Sacred Harmonies quartet, and participate in joyful audience singing throughout the evening!

# CALENDAR

	<i><b>Today, Sunday, December 9, Family Promise begins</b></i>
9:30a	Prayer Time (Prayer Room)
9:40a	Atrium Greeters: Curt & Gwen Overbeek
	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
	<i><b>Monday, December 10</b></i>
8:30a	Friendship Breakfast at Russ' on 28 <sup>th</sup> Street
4:00p	Book Club in the Lounge
6:00p	Zuni Missions Board meeting in Room 1
	<i><b>Tuesday, December 11</b></i>
9:30a	Family Assistance
	<i><b>Wednesday, December 12</b></i>
4:00p	Cancer Support Group
5:30p	Joyringers
6:15p	Cherub Choir <i>and</i> Covenant Choir (Visker)
	Allegro Ringers
7:30p	Sanctuary Choir
	<i><b>Thursday, December 13</b></i>
9:00a	Campus School Holiday Shoppe
9:30a	Family Assistance
6:30p	Eastown Basketball
	<i><b>Friday, December 14</b></i>
8:30a	Senior Men's Bible Study
	<i><b>Saturday, December 15</b></i>
9:00a	Christmas Program Practice followed by Cookie Decorating
	<i><b>Next Sunday, December 16, Family Promise ends</b></i>
9:30a	Prayer Time (Prayer Room)
9:40a	Atrium Greeters: Mark & Wanda Sytsma
	East Greeters: Mike & Lisa TerBeek
	Nursery Supervisor: Yvonne Triezenberg
	Nursery Helpers: Rob & Susan Stafford
	Clara Tolsma, Grace Poortenga
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Suzi Stekete
	Coffee Servers: Bulthuis, Crothers
11:20a	Church School
3:00p	Light of Christ Community meets in Room 9
3:45p	Community Care/Social Justice Committee meeting in the Lounge

Prelude: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Lind

Welcome and Opening Prayer

\* God's Greeting

\* Opening Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **#78:1,3,4**

Hymnsing

Revised Common Lectionary Reading: Luke 1:68-79 page 832

\* Hymn of Preparation: "Song of the Prophets" **#53:1,2,9,17**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1-7 page 778

Sermon: **GOD COMING NEAR**

Prayer of Application

\* Hymn of Response: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" **#80:1-3**

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed back cover of hymnal

Evening Prayer and Offertory Prayer

Presentation of Offerings

Offerings for GEMS Girls' Club

Offertory Duet: "Come, Lord Jesus" C. Landry

\* Benediction

\* Doxology: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **#78:5**  
(concluding with sung "Amen")

\* Postlude: "Gloria, Gloria" [#83] Jacques Berthier

Preacher: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Pianist: Nancy Triezenberg


Duet: Kate and Nancy Triezenberg



## **Growing in Discipleship ... ...Transformed for Ministry**

### **Welcome to Calvin Church**

#### *In Worship:*

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- 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 did Israel 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.
- Large print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Adult coloring pages are on the TRIP table in the Narthex.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system. 

#### *For Children:*

- Ages 0-2: Infant and toddler nurseries are available.
- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers downstairs in room 19 prior to the morning worship.
- K-2<sup>nd</sup>: After the Children's Message the Children's Worship ministry meets downstairs in rooms 11 & 13 until the conclusion of worship. Parents meet their children there following the service.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.
- Coloring pages and colored pencils are available at the table in the Narthex.

#### *Fellowship and Information:*

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch)
- All of our ministries are described in the colorful folders at the Information Desk near the nurseries.

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

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

616-451-8467 [Office@CalvinCRC.org](mailto:Office@CalvinCRC.org) [www.CalvinCRC.org](http://www.CalvinCRC.org)