

Hope

“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.” Isaiah 64:1

First Sunday of Advent

Ten o'clock

December 3, 2023

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” [#61] John Ferguson; Gilbert Martin

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Lighting the candle of Hope

Lane Molenbeek

Advent reading and prayer

Annaliese Hendrikse

Anthem: “Advent Carol”

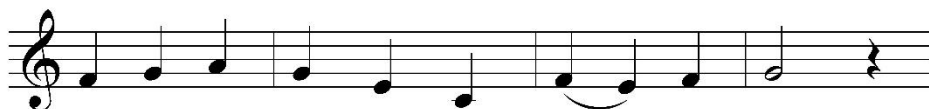
Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Hope, hope! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings hope to you.

CONGREGATION: (Please join the choir when directed.)



Hope, hope! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings hope to you.



Hope, hope! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings hope to you.

Text and music: Beth Kenreich

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CHOIR: Yes, Jesus our Savior brings hope, peace, joy, and love to you.

Advent Litany:

Jacob Netz, Lane Molenbeek, Hannah Triezenberg, Abram Veldkamp
(Based on Isaiah 60:1-2, Matthew 1:23, Micah 5:2-4, Isaiah 9:6, II Peter 1:19,
John 4:25)

Chorister 1: Arise, children of God, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is upon you. Darkness may cover the earth, but on you, God's light shines.

Chorister 2: The prophet Isaiah promised that the Lord will give us a sign. A virgin will give birth to a son, and he will be called Emmanuel.

Congregation: Emmanuel, God with us.

Chorister 3: The prophet, Micah, also told of Emmanuel's coming. Out of Bethlehem will come the Promised One. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. His greatness will bring light to the ends of the earth.

Chorister 4: He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the bright Morning Star.
He will be our Savior, our Messiah, our Emmanuel.
Come Messiah! Come Emmanuel!

Congregation: Come, Emmanuel, come today!

Anthem: "Come, Come Emmanuel"

Text: inspired by "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Music: Lynn Shaw Bailey, Becki Slagle Mayo

Come, come Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, come O Promised One. Come, Emmanuel.

Prophets of old have told of your coming;
long we have waited; long we have prayed.
Kingdoms and kings will bow down before you.
Come, Emmanuel today.

We are your children; you are our Savior.
Lovingly guide us, guide us we pray.
Help us to follow; help us to listen.
Come, Emmanuel, today.

* Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#61:1,2,6,7

* God's Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.
By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.
But we confess that often we try to replace your gift:
we try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.

All: Forgive us for our foolishness.
Help us to focus on your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.
For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

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

#64:1-2

* Assurance of Pardon

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: Gloria, Gloria”

#83:1-2

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

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

All: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

All: 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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **THE DESCENT**

Prayer of Application

CHRIST WELCOMES US TO THE TABLE

This morning we celebrate the Lord's Supper, a gracious gift that God provides to Christ's body, the church. All who have been baptized into Christ and who desire to honor him with grateful and obedient living are invited to participate in this sacrament, discerning that this bread and cup are signs and seals of God's love for us and that we who participate are members of Christ's body.

We serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
whose coming opened to us the way of salvation
and whose triumphant return we eagerly await.

Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your holy name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service.
Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

So, send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Grant that, being joined together in him by your Spirit,
we may attain to the unity of the faith
and grow up in all things into Christ, our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf,
and these grapes from many hills into one cup,
grant, O Lord, that your whole church
may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(God has given us his peace, and we are invited to offer that peace to one another. Many people do this by shaking hands, but if for any reason you would rather not shake hands, you are encouraged to pass the peace with a smile and nod, as you say. "The peace of Christ be with you.")

Institution and Invitation

Distribution Anthems: "Gift of Finest Wheat" [#815] Text: Omer Westendorf
Music: Robert E. Kreutz, arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" [#59]

Text: Johannes G. Olearius; trans. Catherine Winkworth

Music: Louis Bourgeois, arr. Paul G. Bunjes

Prayer

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “What a Feast of Love”

#96:1-3

* Invitation to Offering: Cindy Lanning Burch

* Offertory Prayer for Benevolence

Deacon: God, your generosity to us is abundant and gracious.
Everything we have comes from you.

**All: Receive our gifts of our time, our selves, and our possessions.
Help us to grow in gratitude and joy as we follow Jesus.
Amen.**

* 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: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

Ludwig Krebs

Liturgists: Pastoral Intern Evie Dykhouse and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Preacher: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Choir Directors: Amy Netz and Maria VandenBosch

Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg

Organist and Choir Director: Kenneth Bos

Ministry of Music: Children’s Choirs and Sanctuary Choir

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 3, 2023

WORSHIP today, December 3, 2023, First Sunday in Advent, 10AM and 5PM

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers preaches from Isaiah 64:1-12 and we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as we begin the season of Advent. The Sanctuary Choir and children's choir lead us in ministry of music.

Evening worship: We gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of prayer and singing.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, Second Sunday in Advent, 10 AM

Morning worship: Children from Calvin Church will lead us in worship as they present the story of Christmas through a musical program, "The Promise of Christmas." Our offering will be for Missions.

Advent and Christmas worship schedule:

December 17, 3rd Sunday in Advent:

10:00 AM: Pastor Rebecca preaches from Isaiah 61:1-11

5:00 PM: Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols.

December 24, 4th Sunday in Advent:

10:00 AM: Pastor Brad preaches from Isaiah 40:1-11.

December 25, Monday, Christmas Day:

10:00 AM: Pastor Rebecca preaches from Luke 2:1-20

December 31, Sunday, New Year's Eve:

10:00 AM: We celebrate the first Sunday after Christmas.

5:00 PM: We celebrate New Year's Eve, including the Lord's Supper.

COUNCIL NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote on the 2024 budget will be held in the Fellowship Hall TODAY after the morning service. The proposed budget is available in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH FAMILY

Our condolences to the Post family on the passing away of Sid Post (district 5) on November 24. A memorial service will be held at Clark Retirement, December 30 at 1:00 PM.

Thank you for the outpouring of sympathy received following the recent death of Gord's brother Ken.

Gord and Jane Vandenberg

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

During the Advent season, members of the Covenant and Cherub choirs will be leading worship. The liturgy will include a processional of the Light and the Word. A chorister will light the candle of hope, peace, joy, and love each week and another chorister will present an open Bible to represent the Word made Flesh. This year we are honored to use the family Bible from the Veldkamp family.

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 by December 31. Thank you!

HOMEBOUND CARD BAGS: Season's greetings for our homebound members will once again be collected in the Narthex. We are grateful that the children decorated the 23 bags. A list of homebound members is available at the card table. Cards may be placed in the bags until December 17.

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES: In the next several weeks Calvin Church will have the opportunity to remember those in need and give to three different causes. **Baxter Community Center** was very appreciative of our donation of eight hundred cans of food last year and are hoping we can match it this year but with cans of **pie filling** instead. They found this to be easier than putting actual pies in their Christmas Dinner Baskets! Likewise, **Kid's Hope** is grateful for the contributions that we put under their Christmas tree in our atrium. Additionally, we were petitioned by **Family Promise (IHN)** for small gifts to go in Christmas stockings. Look in your mailboxes for more detailed information on these three worthy causes that we can support in simple ways to show we care about our neighbors.

BOOK CLUB: We will gather on Monday, December 4 at 3:00 PM to discuss the book, *Chasing the North Star* by Robert Morgan. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact Pat Elders.

FESTIVAL CHOIR: We will meet on three Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning on November 29, to prepare for singing in the Candlelight Service on December 17. Please consider being a part of this happy group of singers and invite your friends to join us as well.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: As 2023 draws to a close please consider making a gift to the Christian Education Endowment Fund (CEEF). This fund, set up many years ago, helps our Calvin Church families offset some of the tuition expense of K-12 Christian Education. Checks should be made payable to Calvin CRC with CEEF noted in the memo line. For more information please contact Rob Stafford at rjstaff1@gmail.com or 616-788-7757.

TRIP is a great way to give Christmas gifts and support Calvin CRC at the same time. For guaranteed availability before Christmas, Donna needs your order by December 12. You can catch her after services at the table in the narthex, call her at 534-4365, or email her at dhouskamp@grcs.org. Updated lists of vendors are available at the narthex table.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent in the Neighborhood Webinar: How do you share the hope and peace of the gospel with your neighbors this season?

Many of your neighbors may have no idea what Advent is, but most of them likely get into the festive spirit of Christmas and are eager to give, gather, and share some holiday cheer! This time of year is a wonderful opportunity for followers of Jesus to discover and unite with the Spirit on God's mission in their neighborhoods during this season.

Join us on Monday, December 4 from 7-8:30 PM for a webinar. We'll learn more about bearing witness to God who became one of us and share stories, ideas, and reflections that spread the love of Christ this holiday season. Led by Dr. Karen Wilk, Resonate's Go Local leader and long-time practitioner, you will:

- Reflect on Jesus dwelling among us
- Learn about the shift from "do for" initiatives to postures of ministry that focus on "doing with" and "being with"
- Learn and share creative ideas and tips for engaging your neighbors
- Learn how to bear witness to Christ at holiday events and gatherings

Sign up today by filling out the form in the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdELUE6SLmsRtlY8xOx43UScsc9t8MtpQpNgYk07wIl-2hl-Q/viewform>

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 3</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Karen Trap
	Nursery Volunteers: Kathy Cok, Kate Triezenberg
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Barb Hoekwater
	Coffee Servers: Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen
11:20a	Christmas Program Practice in Room 9
11:30a	Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
	Catechism in the Catacomb
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Mark Sytsma
5:00p	Prayer and Singing in the Fellowship Hall
6:30p	CYG Bible Study
	<i>Monday, December 4</i>
3:00p	Book Club meets in the Lounge
	<i>Tuesday, December 5</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	Executive committee meets in the Conference Room
7:30p	Elders meet in the Atrium
	Deacons meet in the Conference Room
	<i>Wednesday, December 6</i>
5:45p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Narthex
6:00p	Joyringers rehearsal in the Bell Room
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Festival Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	<i>Thursday, December 7</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i>Saturday, December 9</i>
	Christmas Program Practice
	<i>Next Sunday, December 10</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Susan Stafford
	Nursery Volunteers: Cindy Lanning Burch
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Lori Feenstra
	Coffee Servers: Mark and Julie DeKoster
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Graham Rayburn
	CYG Christmas Party



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126, CCLI#2532147, and CSPL#175060.
- 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.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- 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 in the nursery prior to the morning worship.
- K-2nd: 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.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams

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

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

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