



Joy

**“A garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of  
a faint spirit.” – Isaiah 61:3**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Liturgist: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Organist: Kenneth Bos

Choristers: Jacob Netz, Lane Molenbeek, Hannah Triezenberg, Abram Veldkamp

Ministry of Music: Covenant Choir

Directors: Maria VandenBosch and Amy Netz

Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg

Scripture Reader: Lisa Meyer

Audio/Video: Don Buist, Steve Triezenberg

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)

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**Ten o'clock**

**December 17, 2023**

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**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Prelude: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” [#59]

George McKay; Johann Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Lighting the candle of Joy

Abram Veldkamp

Advent reading and prayer

Claire Veldkamp

Anthem: "Advent Carol"

Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Joy, joy! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings joy to you.

Joy, joy! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings joy to you.

**CONGREGATION:** (Please join the choir when directed.)



The image displays musical notation for the Advent Carol anthem. It consists of two staves of music, each with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains the lyrics "Joy, joy! Hear the good news:" and the second staff contains the lyrics "Je - sus our Sav - ior brings joy — to you." The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly marked. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Joy, joy! Hear the good news:

Je - sus our Sav - ior brings joy — to you.

Joy, joy! Hear the good news:

Je - sus our Sav - ior brings joy — 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

(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”      Lynn Shaw Bailey, Becki Slagle Mayo  
*Refrain*

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: “Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

**#60:1-4**

\* God’s Greeting

## **WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you.  
In this Advent time, forgive our failure  
to respond as we should.

**All: Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem: “On This Holy Night”

Dave and Jean Perry

In a stable, cold and bare, underneath a starry sky,  
there a little babe is born on this holy night.

Star light, star bright, shining on the stable.  
Star light, star bright, on this holy night.

Shepherds in the nearby hills heard the angel voices,  
telling of the wondrous gift: a little babe is born.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria on this holy night.

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

front cover of hymnal

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

#69:1,3,4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: **GOSPEL HOPE**

Prayer of Application

## WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

\* Hymn of Response: “View the Present Through the Promise”

**#470:1-3**

\* Invitation to Offering: Kathy Cok

\* Offertory Prayer for the Ministry Fund

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: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow”

**#964**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen, amen.**

\* Postlude: “The King Shall Come” [#476]

David P. Dahl

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The Prayer of Confession is taken from *The Worship Sourcebook*.

### **Calvin CRC Announcements for December 17, 2023**

#### **WORSHIP TODAY, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent**

*Morning worship:* Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from Isaiah 61:1-11, and the children’s choir and Joyringers lead us in ministry of music.

*Evening worship:* We worship God through a traditional service of seven lessons and carols, ending with candlelight carol singing by the congregation. Pre-service music begins at 4:45 PM, and the service begins at 5:00 PM.

#### **WORSHIP Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24**

*Morning worship:* Rev. Brad Zwiers will preach from Isaiah 40:1-11 and the Covenant and Sanctuary Choirs will lead us in ministry of music. The offering will be for Community Care.

## **Christmas worship schedule:**

December 25, Monday, Christmas Day:

10:00 AM: Pastor Rebecca preaches from Luke 2:1-20 and the Festival Choir leads us in music.

December 31, Sunday, New Year's Eve:

10:00 AM: We welcome Rev. Jeff Sajdak from Calvin Theological Seminary.

5:00 PM: Pastor Rebecca preaches from Psalm 90, and we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

## **COUNCIL NEWS**

**Giving Envelopes** will only be ordered upon request. Please contact the office if you are running low and would like a new box for 2024.

Thank you for your engagement and discussion on the 2024 budget during our Congregational Meeting on December 3. The Finance Committee is committed to providing transparency on the church's financial condition by distributing informational summaries of the 2023 year-end financial results as well as quarterly in 2024.

## **CHURCH FAMILY**

A celebration of life service for **John VanLaar** will be held Thursday, December 21, at Cascade Fellowship CRC, 6655 Cascade Rd. SE, with a 1-hour visitation beginning at 10 AM and service at 11 AM.

## **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**

**PARENTS:** If you need a place to take care of your children during the Candlelight Service, both the Lounge and the Nursery will be open for doing so.

**Candlelight Service Refreshments:** Following the Candlelight service the Fellowship Committee will offer seasonal treats in the Fellowship Hall. Please come, invite others, meet and greet neighbors and friends while you enjoy some treats following the special service.

**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!

**Are you dreading the post-holiday let-down?** Looking for an outlet for your creative juices in the new year? Calvin Church is starting to plan a Neighborhood Movie Night for February 2, featuring the film “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.” Maybe you enjoy planning parties, creating large decorations, and photo booth, or dressing up and appearing as a character from the movie - get in touch soon! Perhaps you could see yourself better as an onsite tech person, popcorn server, or set-up/clean-up crew members, you are needed too! Connect with Jan Wilkins (616-485-9550), Joanie Rosema (616-644-9405), or Jesslyn DeBoer (616-481-9944) soon to get in on the fun.

**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 TODAY.

**Helpers needed:** After the morning service we need volunteers to deliver the bags with Christmas cards for our homebound members. They need to be delivered before Christmas Day.

	<i><b>Today, Sunday, December 17</b></i>
9:40a	Nursery Volunteers: Melisa Hubka, Ashi Nyamor, Lucy Molenbeek
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Anjean Stegink
	Coffee Servers: Dale and Joanie Rosema
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Phil DeJonge
4:45p	Extended Prelude of Carols
5:00p	Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service
	<i><b>Tuesday, December 19</b></i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i><b>Wednesday, December 20</b></i>
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Festival Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	78ers Christmas Party
	<i><b>Thursday, December 21</b></i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i><b>Next Sunday, December 24</b></i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Sue Keegstra
	Nursery Volunteers: Judy Alphenaar, Molly Netz
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Judy Alphenaar
	Coffee Servers: Paul and Tanya Bulthuis
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Donna Houskamp