

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”

Isaiah 40:1

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ten o'clock

December 24, 2023

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Johann Pachelbel; Ernst Pepping

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Lighting the Candle of Love

Jacob Netz

Advent reading and prayer

Tyler Netz

Anthem: “Advent Carol”

Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Love, love! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings love to you.
Love, love! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings love to you.

CONGREGATION: (Please join the choir when directed.)



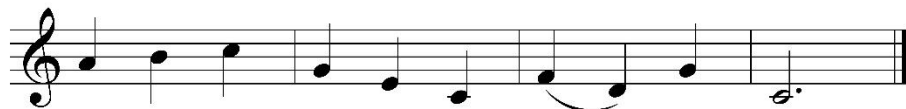
Love, love! Hear the good news:



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



Love, love! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings love 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
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: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#98:1-3

* God's Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: O God, you give us your good news
and call us into a new covenant relationship with you.
Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let the valleys be lifted up!

**People: Inspire in us care for those in need,
and encourage our hearts when we are those in need.**
Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the mountains be leveled off!
**End our pride and take away our arrogance:
save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**
Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the crooked be made straight!
**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**
Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the rough be made smooth!
**Help us grow in understanding,
and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.**
Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.
Let all people see the salvation of our God.
**Redeem your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**
Keep us humble and faithful.
Save us and sanctify us, O God.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem: "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" Text: Isaiah 40, adapt.
Music: Carolyn 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 Alpha and Omega, He.
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.

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: "Gloria, Gloria" #83
(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: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #79:1-4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **TO MAKE A WAY**

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#88:1-3

* Invitation to Offering: Tom Hendrikse

* Offertory Prayer for the Community Care

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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#88:4

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.**

* Postlude: “Noel Suisse”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Liturgist: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Organist and Choir Director: Kenneth Bos

Ministry of Music: Covenant and Festival Choirs

Choir Directors: Maria VandenBosch and Amy Netz

Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg

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

Scripture Reader: Kyle Heys

Audio/Video: Don Buist, Brian Netz

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 24, 2023

WORSHIP TODAY, Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers preaches from Isaiah 40:1-11 and the Covenant and Sanctuary Choirs leads us in ministry of music.

WORSHIP Christmas Day, December 25, 10AM

Morning worship: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Luke 2:1-20 and the Festival Choir will lead us in music. The offering will be for GEMS and Cadets.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve

Morning worship: We will welcome Rev. Jeff Sajdak, Dean of Students at Calvin Theological Seminary, to preach from John 1:35-42. The offering will be for Family Assistance.

Evening worship: We will gather for a special time of evening worship in the sanctuary to thank God for his faithfulness in this past calendar year and put our trust in him for the year to come. We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Psalm 90. The offering will be for Family Assistance

COUNCIL NEWS

Giving Envelopes will only be ordered upon request. Please contact the office by December 28 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.

Calvin Church desires to employ a **Community Connector** to support our continued neighborhood engagement. Information, including a job description, is at the bottom of the home page on the church website. Pray that we and the right interested person or persons will find each other. If you know someone who may be interested, please direct them to the website.

CHURCH FAMILY

85+ YEAR OLD BIRTHDAYS:

1/8 Pat Keyser (89)

1/18 Hans Bokhout (86)

1/22 Clare Walhout (90)

1/25 Charles Fullmer (90)

1/5 MaryLou Wilkins (93)

1/10 Helen Daining (96)

1/20 Grayden Slowins (92)

1/23 Ann Noteboom (101)

1/31 Betty Wiersma (93)

THANK YOU, congregation, for the cards, seasons greetings, visits, and poinsettias. You have blessed us with love this advent season.

from our Homebound and Widowed

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1/9 David Hendrikse (8)

1/22 Faith Price (3)

1/1 MaKayla Price (9)

1/17 Jacob Netz (12)

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

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 member, you are needed too! Connect with Jan Wilkins (616-485-9550), Joanie Rosema (616-644-9405), or Jesslyn DeBoer (616-481-9944) to get in on the fun.

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!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dordt University Chamber Orchestra from Sioux Center, Iowa, invites you to a concert at 7:30 PM on Saturday, January 6, at the Central Reformed Church, 10 College NE, Grand Rapids, 49503. This free concert is part of a winter tour with performances scheduled in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa. Under the baton of Associate Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities Dr. Onsby C. Rose, the Dordt University Chamber Orchestra will perform a wide variety of repertoire ranging from the Romantic era with Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings*, to music by living composers, such as *Only Light* by Minnesota native Aaron Perrine. Join us for an evening of music for the Glory of God! The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:1-3

There is a Grand Rapids' ministry that will allow you to do this by introducing you to a Michigan inmate. **Cards for Prisoners** gives you the name and address of a person incarcerated and provides you with instructions for corresponding safely and anonymously, thus allowing you to give hope and support to an inmate from your own home. **Cards for Prisoners'** goal is to show the love of Christ to people who are incarcerated and let them know they are not forgotten. If you are interested in taking part in this important ministry or would like to find out more, contact Paula Creswell at 70X7 Ministries (616-454-4925) or at paulac@70x7liferecovery.org.

Seeking a part to full-time in-home caregiver to support Ruth and Gordon Kamps in their independent living condo at Holland Home. Support needed for meal prep, some errand running, companionship; daily dressing, mealtime supervision, and cognitive/activity stimulation for Ruth who is about stage 5 dementia and very sweet natured. Ideal situation would be 5 days/week (flexible) from 10 AM-6 PM (also flexible). The ideal caregiver is attentive, patient, likes elderly people, has a good sense of humor, and is experienced or willing to learn best practices for working with persons with dementia. Pay is by the hour from \$20-35/hour. For more information or to apply, please contact Ruth and Gordon's daughter, Lorilyn Wiering: lorilyn@soulcaresanctuaries.com, 616-206-0877

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 24</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
	<i>Monday, Christmas Day, December 25</i>
9:40a	Nursery: Merri Ezinga, Kim Wierenga, Hazel Nunn
10:00a	Worship Service
	<i>Thursday, December 28</i>
10:00a	Quilting Bee in Room 1
	<i>Next Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Gwyn Zwiers
	Nursery Volunteers: Maria Knapper, Aubrey Visker
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Doris Rikkers
	Coffee Servers: Mark and Wanda Sytsma
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Bob Houskamp
5:00p	Worship in Sanctuary



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.
- The Prayer of Confession is from the Worship Sourcebook.
- 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.
- 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

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