



**December 31, 2023**

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Tuesday—Thursday  
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon  
616-451-8467    [Office@CalvinCRC.org](mailto:Office@CalvinCRC.org)    [www.CalvinCRC.org](http://www.CalvinCRC.org)

# **“They came and saw where Jesus was staying, and they remained with him that day.” – John 1:39**

**Sunday after Christmas**

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**Ten o'clock**

**December 31, 2023**

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## **GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Prelude: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” [#76]

Raynor; Marcel Dupré

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “O Worship the Lord”

Text: John Morsell

Music: J. H. Rheinhardt

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim.  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

\* Opening Hymns: “How Great Our Joy”

**#90:1,2,4**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

**#87:1,3,4**

\* God’s Greeting

## **WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

Call to Confession: John 1:19-34

Prayer of Confession:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Hymn of Assurance: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

**#59:1,3**

\* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

front cover of hymnal

\* Song of Response: “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.**

Anthem: “Gesú Bambino”

Pietro A. Yon

When blossom flowered amid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

*Refrain*

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell,  
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever**

**Amen.**

\* Hymn of Preparation: “God Reigns! Earth Rejoices”

**#91:1-4**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: John 1:35-42

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?**

Prayer of Application

## WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

\* Hymn of Response: “Joy to the World”

**#92:1-4**

\* Invitation to Offering: Graham Rayburn

\* Offertory Prayer for Family Assistance

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: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

**#74:7**

**Praise to you, O Lord, we sing.  
Praise to Christ, our newborn King!  
With the Father, Spirit, one,  
let your lasting kingdom come. Amen.**

\* Postlude: “Joy to the World” [#92]

Michael Helman

Liturgist: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys  
Preaching Pastor: Rev. Jeff Sajdak  
Organist: Kenneth Bos  
Soloist: Trudi Huizenga  
Scripture Reader: Donna Houskamp  
Audio/Video: Graham Rayburn, Sarah Frisch

## **Calvin CRC Announcements for December 31, 2023**

### **WORSHIP Today, 10 AM and 5 PM**

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*Morning worship:* We welcome Rev. Jeff Sajdak, Dean of Students at Calvin Theological Seminary, to preach from John 1:35-42, “What Are You Looking For?”

*Evening worship:* We 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 celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from Psalm 90.

### **WORSHIP Next Sunday, January 7, 10AM**

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*Morning worship:* We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and Rev. Lisa Meyer will preach from Matthew 2:1-12. We will welcome the Dordt University Chamber Orchestra to lead us in ministry of music, and the offering will be for Benevolence.

**Staff notes:** Pastor Brad is on vacation December 26-January 2. Pastor Kelly will be on vacation January 1-8.

### **COUNCIL NEWS**

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**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.

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.

## **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 TODAY. 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. The orchestra will also be playing in Calvin Church’s morning service on January 7.

**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. The 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](mailto:lorilyn@soulcaresanctuaries.com), 616-206-0877.

# CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 31</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 the Sanctuary
	<i>Monday, January 1</i>
	Office is closed
	<i>Next Sunday, January 7</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Cindy Lanning Burch
	Nursery Volunteers: Melisa Hubka
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Judy Stoner
	Coffee Servers: Rick and Lori Feenstra
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Roger Konyndyk



## **Growing in Discipleship ... ...Transformed 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.
- “And being found in human form, he humbled himself...” The colors and materials of the Christmas banner reflect God’s glory manifest in the humble setting of the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- 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](http://www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch)
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams)

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