



January 7, 2024

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

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

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

“When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him.” Matthew 2:3

Sunday after Epiphany

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.

Ten o’clock

January 7, 2024

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “Simple Symphony”

Benjamin Britten

(I. Boisterous Bourrée; II. Playful Pizzicato; IV. Frolicsome Finale)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “St. Paul’s Suite”

Gustav Holst

(I. Jig)

* Opening Hymns: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#78:1,3,4

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

#105:1,4,5

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another
in both our actions and our inactions.**

**We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come,
yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light.**

**Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us
the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives.**

**Illumined by your Word and sacrament,
may we rise to the radiance of Christ’s glory. Amen.**

Hymn of Confession: “Nearer, Still Nearer”

#659:1-2

* Assurance of Pardon

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: “Glory Be to the Father”

#961

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Anthem: “St. Paul’s Suite”

Gustav Holst

(IV. Finale on the Dargason)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

* Hymn of Preparation: “Spirit of the Living God”

#749:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

page 783

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**

Prayer of Application

CHRIST WELCOMES US TO THE TABLE

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,
who came as the light of the world
to show us your way in truth in parables and miracles.
Therefore, we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your 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!**

In sending Christ, the light of the world,
you revealed your glory to the nations.
You sent a star to guide seekers of wisdom to Bethlehem,
that they might worship Christ.
Your signs and witnesses in every age
lead people from every place to worship him.
We praise you that in him we become your children,
baptized into your service.
Therefore we proclaim our faith
as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread which we break
and the cup which we bless
may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Grant that, being joined together in him,
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 a nod, as you say, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

Institution and Invitation

Distribution Anthems: “Simple Symphony”
(III. Sentimental Sarabande)
“Only Light”

Benjamin Britten

Aaron Perrine

Prayer

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

#102:1-4

* Invitation to Offering: Cindy Brink

* 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: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#78:5

**Christ, to you, with God the Father and the Spirit, there shall be
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and the shout of jubilee:
honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory
evermore and evermore. Amen.**

* Postlude: “Serenade for Strings”

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

(IV. Finale)

Liturgists: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys and Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Lisa Meyer

Organist: Kenneth Bos

Orchestra Director: Onsby C. Rose

Ministry of Music: Dordt University Chamber Orchestra

Scripture Reader: Bob Houskamp

Audio/Video: Brain Netz, Steve Triezenberg

Calvin CRC Announcements for January 7, 2024

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM

Morning worship: We celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and Rev. Lisa Meyer preaches from Matthew 2:1-12. We welcome the Dordt University Chamber Orchestra to lead us in ministry of music.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, January 14

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers will preach from 1 Samuel 3:1-20, and the Sanctuary Choir will lead us in ministry of music. The offering will be for Mission Outreach.

Staff notes: Pastor Kelly is on vacation January 1-8.

COUNCIL NEWS

RELATIONAL BRIDGE BUILDER WANTED! As part of the effort to engage more fully with our neighbors we wish to employ a part-time Community Connector using grant funding available through Classis Grand Rapids East. If you are or know someone who is internally motivated to connect people to each other to build a better community. Please see the role description on the home page of our church website. Applications are due to the church by January 19.

BETER TOGETHER: We are living into an opportunity as a congregation to support ministry in the broader church. You may be aware of the work of Better Together, a new organization working for unity for the sake of mission in the Christian Reformed Church. Because it is a new organization, the Calvin Church Executive Committee agreed that Calvin Church could hold the funds of Better Together until they organized their own 501(c)3 status. The Council formalized this arrangement later, ensuring that the mission of Better Together is separate from the mission of Calvin Church.

Better Together has recently received a grant from the Lilly Foundation, which will allow them to broaden their mission beyond the CRC into a network of up to 50 churches around the United States who will receive training in Christian conflict transformation. Because Calvin Church holds the funds of Better Together, we also hold the funds for this grant, while Better Together is responsible for implementation of the grant.

This holding of funds or receipt of grant monies does not result in any changes for Calvin Church, but we share it with you in the spirit of transparency, and to invite you to rejoice in the ways that churches are working together for the sake of gospel ministry.

CHURCH FAMILY

WELCOMING A BABY GIRL: Let's celebrate the birth of a new covenant child: Zoe, born to Eric and Justine Ruvuna and welcomed by brothers Bright and Brandon. The family are from Rwanda and have been worshipping at Calvin Church since the summer. You are invited to place cards, small gifts, or baby items in the bassinet in the Narthex. The bassinet is there now and will be there until February 4. Please contact Pastor Rebecca or Maria VandenBosch with questions.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Betty Wiersma** (district 3), who died on Wednesday, December 27. A funeral service was held this past Wednesday, January 3.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

SECRETARY SUBSTITUTE: Looking for someone familiar with MS Office who would be interested in working in the church office when the secretary goes on vacation. A daily schedule and hourly compensation is available. Contact Kim Fredricks 616-451-8467.

Are you dreading the post-holiday letdown? 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.

COURIER ARTICLES: Articles for the February *Courier* are due to Doris Ridders (drikkers@aol.com) by Monday, January 15.

MOVIE NIGHT: On February 2 we are looking for a high schooler or older to dress up as Willy Wonka for a couple hours. If you love to act and work with children, this is the position for you. Costume provided. See Jan Wilkins for details. We also need help to make large candy decorations. A work bee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24 at 5:00 PM at church.

See list and sign-ups on white board by fellowship hall for donations needed. Cash donations to cover licensing fee for movie, costumes, and decorations can be given to Kim in office.

Put this date on your calendar. We would love to see lots of church members, especially children, at this very special adventure into the enchanted world of chocolate. RSVP your attendance on the information desk.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, 616-206-0877.

	<i>Today, Sunday, January 7</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Cindy Lanning Burch
	Nursery Volunteers: Melisa Hubka, Hazel Nunn
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Judy Stoner
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
	Coffee Servers: Rick and Lori Feenstra
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Roger Konyndyk
	<i>Tuesday, January 9</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	Executive Committee meets in the Conference Room
7:30p	Elders meet in the Atrium
	<i>Wednesday, January 10</i>
5:30p	Junior Bells rehearsal in the Bell Room
5:45p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Narthex
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	Cadets, GEMS, and 78ers
	<i>Thursday, January 11</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i>Next Sunday, January 14</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Gwen Hendrikse
	Nursery Volunteers: Curt Overbeek, Jenna Buist
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Irene Konyndyk
	Coffee Servers: Don and Karen Trap
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: Tom Hendrikse