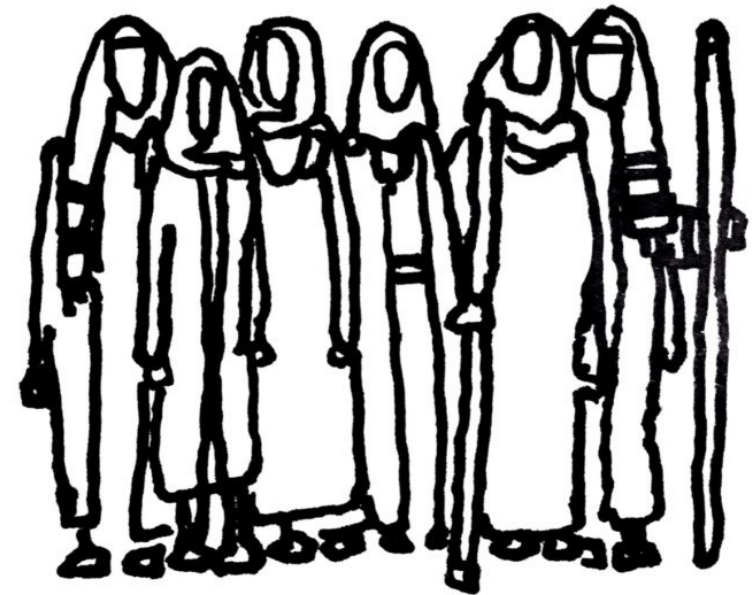


how long? not long.



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee ♦ Reader: Dave Schelhaas
 Candle Lighter: Eden Hawley ♦ Musicians: Parks Brawand, Joya Breems, Rylan Brue, Lisa Christians,
 Tim Rylaarsdam, Janna Vanden Brink, Jocelyn Zonnefeld
 Sound: Eric Rowe ♦ Video: Dane Hibma ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



Psalm 27:13-14

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
 in the land of the living.
 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
 and let your heart take courage;
 wait for the Lord!

† Cover art by Sophia Marcus

Gathering

Prelude: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

R. Shephard

Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting: Psalm 27:1,13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of living.

Be strong. Take heart. And wait for the Lord.

*Song: “The Day of the Lord (Psalm 37)”

**1. It’s not long ’til the boastful are silenced and shamed.
It’s not long ’til the wealth of the wicked’s reclaimed.
And the ones who have waited with eyes on the Lord
will shine like the sun forevermore.
It’s not long till the Day of the Lord!**

**2. Just be still and be faithful and dwell in the land.
Put your trust in the Savior and cling to his hand.
When your heart burns with anger for all that is wrong,
do not let the dark steal your song.
It’s not long till the Day of the Lord!**

Chorus:

**It’s not long till the Day of the Lord,
it’s not long till the Day of the Lord!
Everything that is broken will soon be restored.
It’s not long till the Day of the Lord!**

**3. Do not fear for the wicked with weapons of war,
for the Lord is the shelter and strength of the poor.
And our God comes with laughter, let him be your joy.
The power of the sword, he’ll destroy.
It’s not long till the Day of the Lord! (to chorus)**

Words and music by Wendell Kimbrough, © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

LUYH 67

*Closing Song: “Canticle of Simeon”

**Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn, this child so long foretold.**

**This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles’ promised light,
God’s glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.**

Words: Nunc Dimittis, James Quinn, Music: Elkanah K. Dare, Text © 1969 Selah Publishing, Co.

Postlude: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

D. Bedard

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering baskets are located at the entrances to the sanctuary, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Table

The Thanksgiving

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. You may eat and drink the bread and juice at the table or you may take them back to your seats to partake there.

The Communion: "Savior of the Nations, Come"
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

C. McClure
R. Shephard

*Song of Thanksgiving: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" LUYH 98:2,3

Sending

*We Profess Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

On that day we will see our Savior face to face,
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious.
He will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked.
We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior,
whose shed blood declares us righteous.

**We live confidently, anticipating his coming,
offering him our daily lives—**

our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love—

**knowing that he will weave even our sins and sorrows
into his sovereign purpose.**

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Benediction

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ,

we have not kept watch for you.

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

Help us to wait to know your will.

Help us to look out for the needs of others.

Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

Call to Discipleship: "Prepare the Way"

Soloist sings first time, then congregation joins.

LUYH 58

Words of Assurance: Titus 2:11

People of God, as we wait in hope,

we are assured that our hope for salvation is not in vain.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Thanks be to God.

p.1859

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children's Blessing: "Away in a Manger"

LUYH 86:3

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to go downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service. Parents, you are welcome to walk your children downstairs to help get them settled in.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:57-80

p.1589

Message: "The Visit"

Pastor Joel Kok