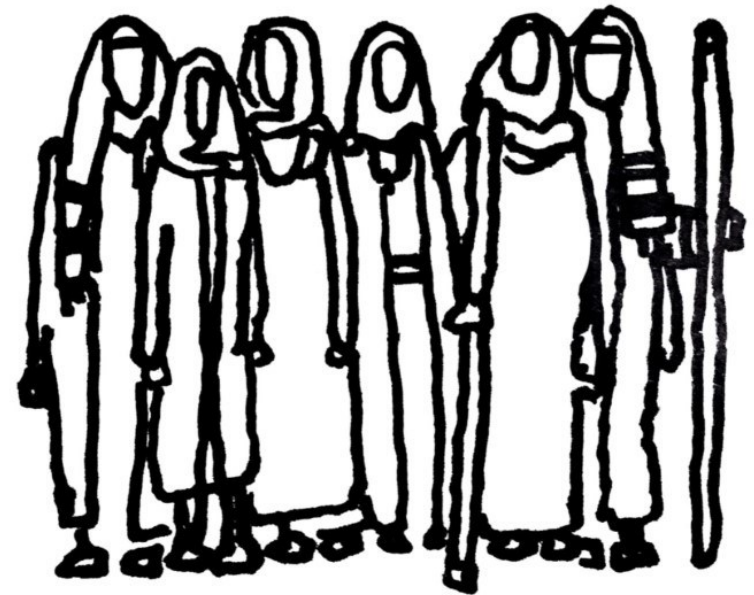


how long? not long.



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee

Worship Leaders: Sara Ploegstra, Phil Postma ♦ Candle Lighter: Sevriena Postma

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ Video: Jason Wyenberg ♦ 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

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 remain confident of this:
 I will 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: “God Reigns! Earth Rejoices”

LUYH 91

*Opening Prayer

*Benediction

*Closing Song: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

LUYH 69

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.

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: “What Child Is This” LUYH 95:1
 “What Feast of Love” LUYH 96:1,2
 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

- 1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**
- 2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, Tune: Polish; harm. Psalter Hymnal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending

*We Profess Our Faith: Our World Belongs to God

**As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
 which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
 we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!**

Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,
 God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ— the eternal Word made flesh.

**He is the long-awaited Messiah,
 one with us and one with God,
 fully human and fully divine,
 conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

We long for that day when our bodies are raised,
 the Lord wipes away our tears,
 and we dwell forever in the presence of God.

**We will take our place in the new creation,
 where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,
 and the Lord will be our light.
 Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Renewal

Call to Confession: “Once in Royal David’s City” LUYH 87:2-3

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon: “Once in Royal David’s City” LUYH 87:4-5

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children’s Blessing: “Away in a Manger” LUYH 86:1,3

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 1:39-56 p.1588

Message: “Elizabeth and Eve, New and Old” Pastor Joel Kok

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.**