

**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: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LUYH 88

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

***Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.***

Text & Music: Bob McGee, © 1976 C.A. Music, admin. Music Services

Sending

*Words of Acclamation

Lord, by the power of your spirit, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
In times of joy and gladness, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
In times of sorrow and despair, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
Grateful for the light of your Word, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
Grateful for the gift of your church, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**
Called to witness to your love, **we'll walk in the light, beautiful light.**

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Jesus, the Light of the World" LUYH 100:1,2

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.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Donna Brue

Readers: Angela Hannigan, Jim Schaap ♦ Candle Lighter: Sean Hannigan

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ Video: Marty Vander Plaats ♦ 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.



First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021



Luke 2:51b-52

But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.
And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Gathering

*Call to Worship: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for at his command they were created,

and he established them for ever and ever—

he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

young men and women, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

And he has raised up for his people a horn,

the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

*Song: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

LUYH 81:1,2,3,5

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*We Light the Christ Candle: I John 1:5-7

p.1898

*Song: “How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

LUYH 101

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon (based on Isaiah 52:9-10, Luke 2:14)

p.1144, 1591

A Retelling of Luke 2:22-39: “The Prophets Prove Him the Messiah”

Walt Wangerin

Song: Cantic of Simeon

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

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

**3. Behold this child will pierce your heart, his Word will be a sword,
a sign opposed to hearts concealed and grace for heavens' adored.**

**4. Almighty Father, hear our cry through Christ the only Son,
whom in the Spirit we adore for ages without end.**

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

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children's Blessing: “Away in a Manger”

LUYH 86:1

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 2:41-52

p.1592

Message: “Jesus' Story; Jesus' Questions”

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.

(continued on next page)