



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Phil Postma ✦ Piano: Mike Janssen ✦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries, Luke Hawley ✦ Bass: Jake Miller
 Drums: Christian Lief ✦ Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries
 Sound: Nick Breems ✦ Video: Terry Friend ✦ 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.



Romans 13:11-12a

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

A Time for Hope

Welcome & Candlelighting: Isaiah 2:3-5

p.1062

Prayer of Invocation (from Psalm 43:3-5)

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

**Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God. Amen.**

*Song: "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

LUYH 63:1-3

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death"

1. **What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.**

What holds our days within His hand?

What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in which we stand.

Chorus: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

2. **What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.**

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

**Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore,
the rock of Christ. (to chorus)**

3. **Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"**

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

**There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore. (to chorus)**

Words & Music: Jordan Kauffin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker

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*Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,
for hope that we begin to see,

and for comfort from the Prince of Peace,

we share our gratitude, Gracious God.

Encourage us in these shortened days.

Through the long nights of this season,

May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

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

LUYH 69:1,4

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 boxes are located at the entrances to the sanctuary, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

**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)**

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A Time for Feasting

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

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 partake at the table or take it back to your seats to partake there.

Communion Songs: "Imagine"

"Here I Am to Worship"

LUYH 72

LUYH 567

A Time for Renewal

Prayer of Confession

**Lord God, our lives are filled with sin.
We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else.
We need a Savior, the hope of our world.
Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts.
O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

Song: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LUYH 56

Words of Hope

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope.
**Thanks be to the Advent God who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

Prayers for the Church and World

A Time to Listen

Children's Blessing: "Soon and Very Soon"

LUYH 482:1

Leader & Congregation: **The Lord be with you.**

Kids & Helpers: And also with you.

Leader & Congregation: **God bless you as you worship.**

Kids & Helpers: God bless you as you worship.

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.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

p.1539

Message: "The Arrival of the Son of Man"

Rev. Phil Postma

*Song of Response: "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!**