

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: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” R. Shephard
 “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

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 joy carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

A Time to Live

*Benediction

*Closing Song: “How Great Our Joy” LUYH 90

Postlude: “Angels We Have Heard on High” C. Bos

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.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee ♦ Candlelighter: Ava Landman
 Strings: Tim Rylaarsdam, Amie Smit, Erika Ver Steeg, Dane Hibma, Benjamin Ploegstra ♦ Oboe: Audra Kooi
 Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ 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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOY

Isaiah 35:10

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A Time for Joy

Prelude: "Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth" R. Shephard

Welcome & Candlelighting: Isaiah 35 p.1111

Prayer of Invocation

*Song: "Joy to the World" LUYH 92:1-3

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Savior of the Nations, Come" LUYH 74:1,2,3,6

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, who bring joy to the world.
Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts.
O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

Words of Joy

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of joy.

**Thanks be to the Advent God who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

Song: "Holy Is Your Name"

**1. My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my Savior:
you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.**

Refrain:

**And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.**

**3. I proclaim the power of God, you do marvels for your servants;
Though you scatter the proud-hearted
and destroy the might of princes. (refrain)**

**5. In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.
I will praise you, Lord, my Savior, everlasting is your mercy. (refrain)**

Words: Luke 1:46-55, David Haas, Music: Irish Traditional, © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

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: Isaiah 35 p.1076

Message: "Highway of Holy Joy" Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "God Reigns! Earth Rejoices" LUYH 91:1,2,4

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.