

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. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats. Gluten-free bread is available on the table.*

Communion Songs: "He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" Handel/Bisbee  
"What Feast of Love" LUYH 96

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

## God Sends; We Go Rejoicing

\*Benediction

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

Postlude: "All Earth Is Waiting" M. Burkhardt

### Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee ♦ Instrumentalists: Molly Galema, Audra Kooi,  
Hannah Landman, Kayla Vande Zande ♦ Worship Leader: Pam DeJong

Readers: Micah Dykstra, Jayden Hoksbergen, Mary Ploegstra

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ 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.



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



How does a  
weary world  
rejoice? *We find joy in  
connection*

### Isaiah 40:1

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

How does a weary world rejoice? During this season of Advent, we acknowledge the weariness, grief, rage, and hopelessness we carry—and we also affirm that we are made for joy.

† From the artist statement on the cover art: "Two people—one radiating joy and the other wading into weariness—hold the world together."

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

## We Gather; God Welcomes

Prelude: “Savior of the Nations, Come” S. Hyslop  
 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” G. Boehm

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

Welcome to worship. **Welcome to worship.**  
 I am glad you are here. **I am glad you are here.**  
 Surely God is in this space. **Surely God is in this space.**  
 I see Jesus in your face. **I see Jesus in your face.**  
 Let us worship together. **Let us worship together.**

\*Song: “All Are Welcome” LUYH 269:1,3,5

\*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song: “Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes” LUYH 60:1,3,4

## We Seek Jesus; God Forgives

Lighting the Advent Candle

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:26-45 p.1588

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God of laughter,  
 God of open front doors and family reunions,  
 we confess that we often doubt the good news.  
 We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop,  
 waiting for life to fall apart,  
 waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.  
 Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.  
 We lean into fear, we lean into isolation.  
 Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.  
**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,**  
**and teach us to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.**  
**Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Family of faith,  
 I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives,  
 God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scriptures today.  
 The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy.  
 There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; believe this:  
**We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.**  
**And we are sent to serve.**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Song: “Imagine” LUYH 72

Invitation to Giving

*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.*

Prayers for the Church and World

## God Speaks; We Listen

Children’s Blessing: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LUYH 61 (*refrain*)  
*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.*

Prayer of Blessing and Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 p.1119

Message: “For the Mouth of the Lord” Pastor Joel Kok

\*Song of Response: “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” LUYH 59

## God Provides; We Feast

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**