

3. *Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.*

4. *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

Words: Reginald Heber, Music: John B. Dykes

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God Sends; We Go Rejoicing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "All Glory Be to Christ"

1. *Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ.*

*Chorus: All glory be to Christ, our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!*

2. *His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread; praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet; all glory be to Christ. (to chorus)*

3. *When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e'er his people be; all glory be to Christ. (to chorus)*

Music: Traditional Scottish folk tune, Text & Arr.: Dustin Kensrue, © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Michael Ribbens † Piano: Mike Janssen † Guitar: Laremy DeVries

Worship Leader: Mark Christians, Rebecca DeVries

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra † Video: Marty Vander Plaats † CCLI #493458 † OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

An FM hearing assistance system is available for those who need it. Consult the sound operator for assistance.

Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We trust our
belovedness*

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

How does a weary world rejoice? 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

Welcome

Call to Worship

All who thirst, come to the water.

Come, all who are weary; come all who yearn for forgiveness.

The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us,

and our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.

Drink deeply of these living waters.

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

*Song: "I Come with Joy"

LUYH 533:1-5

**1. I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.**

**2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.**

**3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.**

**4. The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here.**

**5. A cloud of loving witnesses surrounds us while we sing
as all the saints, forgiven, loved, immortal praises bring.**

Words: Brian Wren, Music: American folk melody © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "You Are Holy"

LUYH 598

Men lead, women echo

**You are holy, (You are holy,) You are mighty. (You are mighty.)
You are worthy, (You are worthy,) worthy of praise. (worthy of praise.)
I will follow. (I will follow.) I will listen. (I will listen.)
I will love You (I will love You) all of my days. (all of my days).**

Men:

**I will sing to and worship
the King who is worthy.**

Women:

**You are Lord of lords, You are King of kings,
You are mighty God, Lord of ev'rything.**

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.

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 Song: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

LUYH 537

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord; Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You, I want to see You.**

**To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy.**

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy. I want to see You.

Words & Music: Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Communion Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" LUYH 538:1,3,4

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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 available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Moment for Missions: Mike & Megan Ribbens

Prayers for the Church and World

God Speaks; We Listen

Children's Blessing: "Christ, Be Our Light" LUYH 908 (refrain)

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell ©1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Blessing and Illumination

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:4-13 p.1551

Message: "First Formation" Rev. Michael Ribbens

*Song of Response: "Blessed Assurance" LUYH 363

***1. Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.***

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

***2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]***

***3. Perfect submission: all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]***

Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: Phoebe P. Knapp

Men:

***I will love and adore Him;
I will bow down before Him.
I will sing to and worship
the King who is worthy.
I will love and adore Him;
I will bow down before Him.***

Women:

***You're Emmanuel, You're the Great I Am,
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God; You're my saving grace.
You will reign forever, You are Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega, beginning and end
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend.***

All: You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.

Words & Music: Marc Imboden & Tammi Rhoton©1994 Imboden Music/Martha Jo Music, admin. by Music Services, Inc.

We Seek Jesus; God Forgives

Prayer of Confession

***Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more
in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.***

Words of Forgiveness

***Our story begins with belovedness and image-bearing.
Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall,
God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us.
We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved.
Thanks be to God! Amen!***

Song of Thanksgiving: "Jesus Loves Me" LUYH 709:1,2

***1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.***

***Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

***2. Jesus loves me— he who died heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. [Refrain]***

Words: Anna B. Warner; Music: William B. Bradbury