

With the angels in heaven we join in praise:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia! Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

*Words of Sending

*Closing Song: “Go, Tell Us on the Mountain”

LUYH 93:3

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok, Rev. Paul Birnbaum † Piano: Ryan Smit † Violin: Amie Smit † Cello: Benjamin Ploegstra

Worship Leader: Sara Ploegstra

Sound: Nick Breems † Video: Tom Clark † 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.



While We Are Waiting ...Hope

As we gather to worship this Advent, we will remember that we, like the psalmist, are people who wait for the coming Lord, and in his word we hope; like the psalmist—because all is not as it should be, all is not whole—our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don’t give up.”

—Anne Lamott

† Bulletin cover art by Sevriena Postma

Gathering

Welcome

Song: "Wait for the Lord"

LUYH 480

Candle Lighting (based on Psalm 25:1-10)

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Prayer of Preparation

**God of Hope,
while we are waiting for Christ's return,
send your Spirit to renew our longing
for the days when all will be made right.
Give us eyes to see your faithfulness
and ears to hear of your goodness
so that our hearts may be humbled
and filled with hope for Christ's coming kingdom.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Song: "Wait for the Lord"

LUYH 480

*Call to Worship:

Does the Father truly love us?

He does!

Does the Spirit move among us?

He does!

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves?

He does!

Does our God intend to dwell again with us?

He does!

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

*Song: "Is He Worthy"

*Do you feel the world is broken? **We do.***

*Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do.***

But do you know that all the dark

*won't stop the light from getting through? **We do.***

*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We do.***

*Is all creation groaning? **It is.** Is a new creation coming? **It is.***

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is.***

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.***

Jesus is the long awaited Savior,
fully conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

He is the only Savior.

**To him we offer our hearts and lives,
dedicating ourselves to holy living.**

**For his sake we feed the hungry,
reaching out to others in need.**

**In his name we speak words of hope,
inviting others to be his disciples.**

When he returns and we see him face to face,
we will join in a new song to the Messiah who is our Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Song: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LUYH 70:5

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.

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.

Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

Communion Songs: "Imagine"

LUYH 72

"Christ Be Our Light"

LUYH 908:1,2,3,5

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus, you truly are Immanuel, "God with us."

In this season of hope, may the meal we've shared together
nourish us to be your body in the world.

And may your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have not kept watch for you.
 We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
 We have not waited to find your will for us.
 We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
 We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
 Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
 Help us to wait to know your will.
 Help us to look out for the needs of others.
 Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

The Good News: Isaiah 40:28-31

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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.

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children In Worship Dismissal: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” LUYH 88:4

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

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Message: “Waiting Watchfully”

Rev. Paul Birnbaum

*Song of Response: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LUYH 61:1,2,6

Table

We Come to the Table

As followers of Jesus Christ, who live in his world,
 we joyfully declare that he is our Savior and Lord.
 We gratefully recall God's promise to reconcile the world to himself,
 to come among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh.

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
 Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
 The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
 He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?
 Is He worthy of this? He is.***

*Does the Father truly love us? **He does.**
 Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.**
 And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **He does.**
 Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.***

***Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
 Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
 The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,
 He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
 From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue,
 He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is! He is!***

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*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

Renewal

*Song: “Come Light Our Hearts”

***Chorus: For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.
 For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.
 Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.***

***1. O Lord of life, our only hope,
 your radiance shines on all who look to you in the dark.
 Emmanuel come, come light our hearts. (to chorus)***

***2. O Joy above all other loves, in you we find more than enough.
 We come as we are, O heal and restore.
 Come light our hearts. (to chorus)***

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