

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok † Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee

Strings: Derek Friend, Tony Garcia, Benjamin Ploegstra, Tim Rylaarsdam

Worship Leaders: Ruth & Lydia Clark, Nick Breems, June DeWit, Cal Jongsma

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra † Video: James Rylaarsdam † 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 ...Love

As we gather to worship this Advent, we remember that we, like the prophet Zechariah, know that darkness and the shadow of death are ever present while we wait and watch. So may we wait and watch with confidence, knowing that our tender, merciful, loving God has enabled us to serve Him (and each other) without fear.

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”

—Mother Theresa

† Bulletin cover art by Sevriena Postma

Gathering

Prelude: "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" arr. P.G. Bunjes

Welcome

Song: "Wait for the Lord" LUYH 480

Candle Lighting (based on Malachi 3:1-4) p.1490

Prayer of Preparation

**God of Love,
while we are waiting for Christ's return,
may your Spirit spur us to actions of love
so that the world may know of your great love.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Song: "Wait for the Lord" LUYH 480

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 85)

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

he promises love to his people, who are his beloved saints.

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship.

May we see God's face and so know love.

Amen.

*Song: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" LUYH 56

*God Greet 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.

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: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Burkhardt, Bish
"What Feast of Love" LUYH 96

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.

With the angels in heaven we join in praise:

Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia! Amen.

Sending

*Benediction

*Words of Sending

*Closing Song: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" LUYH 98:3

Postlude: "On Jordan's Banks" M. Burkhardt

Word

Children's Message

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: Malachi 2:17-3:5 p.1489

Message: "Fiery Love and Joyful Judgment" Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" LUYH 67

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.
 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 love,
 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

**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)**

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken ©2014 Drink Your Tea, [ASCAP], Admin by Music Services

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: Jeremiah 40:28-31

p.1232

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
 when I will fulfill the promise I made
 to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
 In those days and at that time
 I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
 and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.
 And this is the name by which it will be called:

"The Lord is our righteousness."

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.
 In Christ, we are made right with God.

Thanks be to God!

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