

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Donna Brue ♦ Flute: Lisa Christians ♦ Guitar: Luke Hawley
 Vocalist: Eden Hawley ♦ Worship Leaders: Matt & Nola Jewett, Jason Vande Brake
 Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ 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 ...Rejoice!

As we gather to worship this Advent, even when we come with sorrow, pain, fear, or exhaustion, we are reminded by the prophet Zephaniah that while we wait and watch, we do so with joy because God is with us and our mighty Savior is rejoicing over us!

“In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen . . . The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.”

—Frederick Buechner

† Bulletin cover art by Sevriona Postma

Gathering

Welcome

Choral Song: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

Candle Lighting (based on Isaiah 12:2-6) p.1078

Prayer of Preparation

**God of Joy,
while we are waiting for Christ's return,
may your Spirit renew in us the joy of our salvation.
Lead us to share this joy with those around us
so that others may drink deeply from the well of salvation.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

Song: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

1. ***While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.***
3. ***Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.***

Text: Claire Cloninger, Music: Don Cason ©1986 Curb Word Music

*Call to Worship: "With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim" LUYH 66:1-4

*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)***

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

***2. When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
but high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
the promise of ages it then did recall.***

***3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.***

***4. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.***

Words & Music: Appalachian Carol; Adapted by John Jacob Niles

Communion Song: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" LUYH 78:1,2,4

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: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" LUYH 69:1,3,4

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 joy,
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 Song: "Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor"

LUYH 75

Communion Song: "I Wonder as I Wander"

**1. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

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: "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

LUYH 60

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: Zephaniah 3:9-20

p.1466

Message: "New Creation Celebration"

Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "Joy to the World"

LUYH 92

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.