

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ♦ Piano: Shannon Schreurs ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries
 Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries ♦ Readers: Emily & Adam Kramer, Jim Schaap
 Sound: Dennis DeJong ♦ 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.



While We Are Waiting ...Peace

As we gather to worship this Advent, we are reminded by the prophet Micah that the One who comes will be our peace. So as we long for shalom in the world around us, we will wait and watch and work for the coming kingdom of peace.

God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men.

—from “Christmas Bells” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

† Bulletin cover art by Sevriena Postma

Gathering

Welcome

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.*
2. *With pow'r and glory, come; with pow'r and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

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

Candle Lighting (based on Micah 5:2-5)

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Prayer of Preparation

**God of Peace,
you send us the Prince of Peace.
While we are waiting for his return,
we long for his peace to rule in our lives
and throughout the world.
We eagerly await the days
when your whole flock will live in peace.
May we, through the power of your Spirit,
shine with the peace of Christ.
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 (based on Psalm 80:1-7)

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The Lord is glorious and exalted.
Lord, shine in our hearts and lives.
God's people are often in distress and sorrow.
Lord, show your might and deliver us from evil.
We sometimes do not feel the Lord's presence.
O Lord, let your face again shine on us.

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: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"Once in Royal David's City"

LUYH 88:1-3
LUYH 87

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

Words of Sending

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Tell Out My Soul"

LUYH 364:1-3

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: Micah 5:1-5a p.1445

Message: “Love, Joy, Victory-Shalom!” Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: “God Reigns! Earth Rejoices” LUYH 91:1-3

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 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.

The Lord was the shepherd of his people Israel.

Lord, lead us in your way and guide us in our walk.

In this Advent season we stand on tiptoe –

Immanuel, invade our lives. Amen.

*Song: “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”

LUYH 59

*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.

***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: Hebrews 10:1-10 (The Message)

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