

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: "Nearer, Still Nearer" LUYH 659
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Text & Music: Bob McGee, © 1976 C.A. Music, admin. Music Services

The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4 p.939
Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Sending

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LUYH 97

Giving at Covenant

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.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Justin Bailey ♦ Piano: Jill Friend, Will Breems ♦ Viola: Derek Friend

Worship Leaders: Joya Breems, Micah & Jayden Dykstra, Tammy Lief, Megan, Rowan, & Emma Haan

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ 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.

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025



John 1:14 (The Message)

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

†Cover Art: Sevriena Postma

Gather

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle (John 1:1-5,9,14)

p.1645

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

Opening Prayer

*Song: "Joy to the World"

LUYH 92

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

LUYH 98

Renew

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:21-26

p.1750

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Song: "Joy Has Dawned"

**1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.**

**2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.**

**3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold—a King is born today, incense—God is with us,
myrrh—His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us.**

**4. Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom,
reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.**

Text & Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2004 Thankyou Music

Prayers for the Church and World

Word

Children's Dismissal: "Come, Lord Jesus"

Come, Lord Jesus. (3x) Come and be born in our hearts.

Text & Music: Carey Landry © 1976 North American Liturgy Resources, admin OCP Publications

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: Psalm 73

p.909

Message: "How Can This Be?"

Dr. Justin Bailey

Table

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.
Dying he destroyed our death. Rising he restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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,**