

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

10:00 a.m.

The Approach to God

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. by Molly James

VOTUM

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING from Matthew 1:18-23

This is the story of Jesus' birth....We are ready for your coming.

(in unison)

**Dear God,
we are waiting for your Son, Jesus.
As we wait;
help us be patient.
Help us be still.
Help us be full of your light.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Make us more like you--hopeful, peaceful, joyful, loving.
We love you Lord.
Amen.**

SALUTATION

*+HYMN OF PRAISE 74 Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-3 & 7)
Tune: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

**O loving God,
Your world is good and full of your light.
Yet we have marred it with our sin.
We have not loved you with our whole heart
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us God,
restore us in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN 480 Wait for the Lord
Tune: WAIT FOR THE LORD

WORDS OF ASSURANCE from Our Song of Hope

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16 p. 636

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23 p. 1

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “Echoes: Promise Flows Down”

The Response to God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 59 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR/GENEVAN 42

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

RECOGNITION OF STAFF

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY The Only Son from Heaven J.S. Bach

The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers.

by God the Father given, in human form appears.

No sphere his light confining,

no star so brightly shining as he, our Morning Star.

—Elizabeth Creutziger, translated by Arthur T. Russell

*DOXOLOGY 965

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 63 My Soul in Stillness Waits (vs. 1-3)

Tune: STILLNESS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Soundings setting by Frank Ferko

+Latecomers will be seated. *You may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes, preaching; Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolbaas, liturgist; Randy Rusthoven, Harper Sievert, candle lighting; Amanda Dykhouse, violin; Kamerkoor; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.

Today

We welcome all who worship with us and ask visitors and members to sign the Friendship Folders so that we may get to know one another. Please join us in the Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the worship service.

ASSISTING TODAY: Deacons/Ushers: Roger DeYoung, Laura McMullen, Jon Van Duinen

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Mary DeWitt and Jane Dalman will be available to pray with you following today's worship service. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer located in the south hallway on the main level.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: Our Children and Worship Program for children aged 4 through the 2nd grade continues today during the 10:00 service. Our Worship Center program takes place in Room 2. (Downstairs: Take the Northwest staircase down to the lower level. The room is the first door to your right.)

Education classes will not meet today. Classes resume on Sunday, January 8, at 11:15 a.m.

EL ENCUENTRO (EN ESPAÑOL): Les invitamos a las 11:30 a.m. a reunirnos en la presencia del Señor, escuchar su Palabra y orar juntos. Favor de invitar a sus familiares y vecinos-- ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Nos reuniremos en **Fellowship Hall**. (gimnasio). ¡Nos vemos!

*[Translation] **EL ENCUENTRO** (SPANISH GATHERING) We invite you to join us at 11:30 a.m. to spend time in the presence of God through his Word, and to pray together. Feel free to invite your family and friends-- everyone is welcome! We meet in the **Fellowship Hall**. See you! English translation via headset is available.*

The Week Ahead

Sunday

- 11:15 a.m. Education Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Spanish Worship Ministry/El Encuentro
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program & Pizza Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Christmas Party

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Governing Board

Wednesday

- 6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers (zoom)
- 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (zoom)

Friday Church Office Closed

Saturday

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Congregational News

Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

Please remember to have someone notify the church office when you are in the hospital so you can receive spiritual care by the pastoral staff. Call 392-1459.

SYMPATHY is extended to Esther Vande Bunte in the death of her sister-in-law, Marcia Vanden Berg, on December 5.

SYMPATHY is extended to Adriann Divozzo in the death of her sister-in-law, Emily Knepshield, on December 14 in Nashville, TN.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Mary Boersen has moved from the hospital to a rehab center. Herb Pollock is at The Inn. Pray for Lucille Schroeder. Hospice-Lois Jalving, Sue Ten Hoeve. American House-Ed & Jane Westerbeke; Appledorn-Bob Kuiper, Donna Prins, Ellen Rieck; Maple Woods-Muriel Bolhuis, Beth DuMez, Dennis DeWitt. Missionaries-Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Rowland Jr. & Jane Van Es (Kenya), Victory Kanyi (Kenya).

Congregational News

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The church office will not have reception hours the week between Christmas and New Years. While staff will be working, it will be both from home and in the office and on varying schedules. If you have need to visit the church the week following Christmas, please make arrangements ahead of time so a staff member can meet you. Also, please note the office is completely closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday; as well as Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Our 5:00 p.m. service will feature children in a live nativity as the scriptures about the birth of our Savior are read aloud. We will enjoy a cookies and punch reception after this service. At 11:00 p.m. we will enjoy a candle light Christmas Eve service. The Christmas offering is designated for Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity: a partnership, home building & home repair Christian ministry serving Ottawa and part of Allegan Counties.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: This year Christmas falls on a Sunday, and we will gather in a combined service, at 10:00 a.m., for worship. Due to this fact, there will be no reception after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Please note: translation will be provided in Spanish.

YEAR-END GIVING: If you are planning to make year-end gifts to Third Reformed Church and want them credited to your giving record in 2022, checks need to be dated (and postmarked, if mailed) December 31 or earlier and received at the church prior to January 6. With staff working remotely between December 23 and January 3, you may also place contributions in the offering plates or in the USPS drop box outside the main door during that time. As January 1 falls on a Sunday, we will use the date on your check for the year in which to credit your gift. If you are giving shares of stock, the stock should be received in the church's account by December 30 (last business day before year-end). Instructions for a donation of shares of stock are available in the church office. If you are giving a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, remember your trustee will need time to process your request and mail the check by December 31 for your gift to count in 2022.

Please pick up your giving envelopes for 2023. They are on the tables near the north windows of the Gathering Place. Envelopes for members participating in EFT are on the right side. To avoid confusion, please do not use new envelopes until January 1, 2023. If you haven't already turned in your pledge card for 2023, we encourage you to do so soon. Extra copies are available in the church office if needed.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER: The Youth are going away!!!!...on mission trips and retreats! The Youth of TRC are preparing for middle and high school retreats and mission trips this coming year. On January 20th, 2023 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the Youth will be hosting a Student Sponsor-thon! Students have been training hard, honing their skills, and preparing to offer their gifts to the highest bidder! Everyone, and we mean EVERYONE, is invited to this fundraising event to

help the youth of TRC! Come join us for a time of hors d'oeuvres (fancy word for appetizers) served by the youth, a program on the various trips youth will take, and.....drum roll, please.....bid on youth provided skills such as babysitting, shoveling, baking, dog walking, and so much more, during the silent auction portion of the event! Our goal is to raise \$6,000! Please consider donating to help the youth of TRC experience the love of God through service, learning, and community, as they take part in the retreats and mission trips both domestically and internationally! Please contact Hunter Brumels, hunter.brumels@trcholland.org, if you would like more information.

FLOWER CALENDAR: If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of someone for the Sunday worship services, please sign up on the flower chart in the church office or call the church office, 392-1459.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:
Come and enjoy, "A Very Mixed Up
Christmas Pageant,"
Today at 4:00 p.m.
The pageant will be followed
with a pizza dinner for all.
Don't miss it!

Join us on
Sunday, January 1
for a delicious
International Branch
at 12:30, following the
El Encuentro service.

There's no obligation
to bring anything,
but if you have a
favorite dish
you want to share,
please email us at
office@trcholland.org,
to let us know.

*We hope to
see you there!*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE'S

- 5 PM - Children's Live Nativity
- 11 PM - Candlelight Service