

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

The Approach to God

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"

Stuart Forster

WELCOME

VOTUM

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE (*responsively*)

There are many stories

Today we choose the story of peace.

Where there is violence, where there is war;
where we are told that it is us versus them,
may your peace rule, may your kingdom come.

May your kingdom come so that you may guide us into the way of peace. Help us declare the gospel of peace! As the prophet Isaiah says to us, "Get you up to a high mountain, herald of the good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities, "Here is your God! See, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep."

"Prepare the way of the Lord!

In the wilderness, make straight paths for our God!"

There are many stories.

Today let us tell the story of the peace of our God!

The story of Jesus, the Messiah! Come Lord Jesus!

SALUTATION

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 56 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Tune: STUTTGART

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Merciful God,

You have created us for relationship. Relationship with you, relationship with one another, relationship with your world. You have shown us steadfast, loving kindness in keeping us in covenant with you.

Forgive us God for our resistance to your love. Forgive us for our resistance to the relationships you have created us for. Restore us to right relationship in your son Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*HYMN 63 My Soul in Stillness Waits (vs. 1-2)
Tune: STILLNESS

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8 p. 34
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON "Two Stories: The Eagle and the Dove"

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

The Response to God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 63 My Soul in Stillness Waits (vs. 3-4)
Tune: STILLNESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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 60 Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
(vs. 1 & 4)
Tune: RICHMOND

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE People, Look East James Mansfield

*You may stand.

*Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes, preaching; Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolbaas, Keith Doorenbos
liturgists; Van Duinen Family, advent candle lighters; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.*

Today

We welcome all who worship with us! We have sign-in books for members and guests on the cabinets at the back of the sanctuary or you may follow this QR code to sign in. We would appreciate it if you took a moment to sign in you and your family members and let us know you were here. **If you are joining us as a guest today**, please follow this QR code, or head to trcholland.org/quickstart to let us know you were here.



ASSISTING TODAY: Deacons/Ushers: Bethany Bulthuis, Jim Vander Meer, Pablo Perez

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Judy and Charles Hunt 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 HOUR, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Preschool-First Grade	room 2	Second-Fifth Grade	room 1
6th-8th grades	room 11	Senior High	Youth Room

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, 11:15-12:15

Mosaic: "In Search of Humility" led by Daryl Van Tongeren. Meets in the sanctuary. Next week: "Helping While it Hurts: One Interconnected World" led by James Padilla De Borst
"The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything Part Deux" meets in room 22.

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 p.m. Spanish Worship Gathering
5:00 p.m. Carillon Choir
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday

9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (zoom)
1:30 p.m. Miriam Bible Study at Sarah Unzicker's

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
10:00 a.m. Hannah/Elizabeth Bible Study at Alma Holkeboer's
10:00 a.m. Ruth Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Lydia Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Outreach Team
7:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday

6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers (zoom)
1:30 p.m. Rachel Bible Study
6:15 p.m. Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party

Thursday

8:00 a.m. Sunrise Saints
11:10 a.m. Vocal Dimensions
1:00 p.m. Care Team Coordinators' Meeting

Friday

6:30 a.m. High School Bible Study

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Choir Carol Service Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Curso de Discipulado en Español (Discipleship Class)

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 Alma, Litzi, Karyme, and Azul Reyes in the death of their mother and grandmother in Atoyac, Guerrero, Mexico on December 6.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Holland Hospital-Carl Folkert. Hospice-Margaret Doorenbos. Appledorn-Donna Prins; Vista Springs-Barb Piaget; Maple Woods-Beth DuMez, Ruth Heideman; American House-Mary Boersen; Quincy Place-Bob & Elle Kuiper. Missionaries-Jaime & Martha Amaro (Mexico), Albino & Sandy Rodriguez (Peru).

YOU'RE INVITED: The Holland High School Vocal Dimensions will join us on Tuesday, December 14 at 11:10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall, for a holiday performance. Come listen to Christmas music and support the Third Church students who are part of this vocal group. There will be a cookie reception following the performance.

CHOIR CAROL SERVICE: This special service, on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m., is designed for the congregation to join in on many carols. Paired with scripture readings, the service is designed to bring us further into the expectant waiting of the Advent Season. We will enjoy a cookies and punch reception after this service.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES GIVING TREE: Advent is here and so is the "Giving Tree." The Women's Ministries of Third Reformed will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves, socks and underwear to be donated to Community Action House. Donations will be accepted from Sunday, December 3 through December 17.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES: We are in need of Christmas cookies for upcoming events. Please bring cookies ready to be frozen (i.e. packaged in a freezer bag or in an appropriate freezer container) so that we can keep them fresh all month. You can drop them off in the church office, or place them directly in the freezer on Sunday morning with a note on them that states they are for Christmas events. **PLEASE NOTE:** If your cookies contain tree nuts or peanuts, please pop a note on them stating this so we can let our members with allergies know. Thanks!

The Monday Painting Classes will be making Christmas cards, place cards, etc. with watercolor and other craft supplies. There are openings both tomorrow (December 11) and December 18 in the 3:30-5:30 class. Call Kathy Van Tubbergen, 616-212-0035, to reserve a spot and get a materials list.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: This year will have one evening service at 7:00 p.m. This 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 the service. The Christmas offering is designated for Resilience.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The week between Christmas and New Year's the church office will be closed. The staff will be working a flex schedule throughout the week, however, the door alarms will not be turned off. Please plan on waiting till the following week to come into the office, or visiting us prior to Christmas week. Of course, pastoral staff is always available by email or, in time of need, by calling the office at 616-392-1459

YOU'RE INVITED to an All-Church Brunch on Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a combined worship service at 11:30 a.m. Both events will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE: The Youth will be hosting a fundraiser on Friday, January 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served, there will be a skill/gift auction, and a time to learn about the upcoming student trips.

BOOK PURCHASING OPPORTUNITY: There has been a lot of discussion surrounding communion at Third Reformed Church. Pastor Ryan mentioned in a recent Mosaic class that a book based on his dissertation is available for purchase. We will soon be placing an order for his book, "The Food of God for the People of God: Reconnecting Food to the Eucharist." If you would like a copy of the book please let Kristen in the church office know by December 20. Cost of the book is \$14.



ADVENT PUZZLE: For this Advent and Christmas we are focusing on two stories. The story that was being told by the Empire of Rome and the story that was being told by the people of God through the scriptures. To amplify these symbols and stories, our artist-in-residence, Joel Schoon-Tanis has created an art piece encompassing this dramatic scene. We have turned that art piece into a puzzle and we invite you to order one for you or your whole family. These puzzles are 500 pieces and are great for the whole family. We have also written a devotional to accompany these puzzles that focus on each week as well as Christmas. Each devotion has the scripture readings, some questions for reflection and prayers. If you would like to order a puzzle, please reach out to Kristen in the office and order by next Wednesday (the 13th) so we can have

them here by Christmas. The puzzles are \$35 a piece. Happy Puzzling!