

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

The Approach to God

PRELUDE
by Larry Sue

From Starry Skies Descending

arr.

WELCOME

VOTUM

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY *(responsively)*

Leaders: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

All: Then it was said among the nations,

Leaders "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us,

All: and we are filled with joy.

Leaders: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

May those who sow with tears

All: reap with shouts of joy.

Leaders: Those who go out weeping,

All: bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

carrying their sheaves.

SALUTATION

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

74

Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1, 5-7)

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.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of mercy,

forgive us. You have called us to be people who live in your joy and reflect your light.

Yet, we can carry so much darkness. Restore us from the unkind words we say, the

neglect we show to one another, the unhealthy habits we hide from those who love

us. Forgive us and lead us in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

from I Thessalonians

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

p. 691

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Two Stories: Ashes and Garland”

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

The Response to God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 66

With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

arr. by Larry Sue

*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 92

Joy to the World

Tune: ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Come, Redeemer of Us All

Anthony St.

Pierre

*You may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes, preaching; Rev. Angel Lopez, Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolbaas, liturgists; Young Levites, advent candle lighters; Carillon Choir; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.

Today

We welcome all who worship with us! We invite you sign in on the fellowship pads in the pew 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: Bruce Bassett, Laura McMullen, Sandy Stielstra.

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Marilyn Norman and Chris Cook 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.)

Note: This week is the last week of education for 2023. Classes begin again on Sunday, January 7.

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: "Helping While it Hurts: One Interconnected World" led by James Padilla De Borst meets in the chapel

"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

8:45 a.m.	Kamerkoor
11:15 a.m.	Education Hour
11:30 p.m.	Spanish Worship Gathering
6:00 p.m.	Choir Carol Service
6:30 p.m.	High School Youth Group Christmas Party

Monday

9:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (zoom)
7:00 p.m.	Martha Bible Study

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Book Discussion and Dinner
7:15 p.m. Consistory

Wednesday

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

Thursday

8:00 a.m. Sunrise Saints

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Curso de Discipulado en Español (Discipleship Class)
6:00 p.m. El Encuentro Christmas Party

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.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Holland Hospital-Phyllis Brown. Pray for Dean Miedema as he recovers from surgery. Hospice-Margaret Doorenbos. The Inn or Assisted Living at Freedom Village-Martha Beld, Esther DePree, Charlotte Garlough, Mary Heideman, Shirley Hoksbergen, A.E. Lacy, Linda Parchert. Missionaries-Linn G. (Asia), Lubna Y (Asia).

CHOIR CAROL SERVICE: This special service this evening, 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. Today is the last day to donate.

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

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.

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.

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 2023, 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 limited hours between December 22 and January 1, you may also place contributions in the offering plates or in the USPS drop box outside the main door during that time. If you are giving shares of stock, the stock should be received in the church's account by December 29 (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 2023.

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. Please sign up to provide part of the New Year's Day Brunch by following the link in this week's edition of Third Church News or by calling the church office, 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. Please sign up to provide part of the New Year's Day Brunch by following the link in this week's edition of Third Church News or by calling the church office, 616-392-1459.

