

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

## — THE APPROACH TO GOD —

PRELUDE          *Hark the Herald*          James Biery

WELCOME

VOTUM

ADVENT READING          Micah 5:2-5a

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

On the first week of Advent waiting, we lit the candle for HOPE.

On the second week of Advent waiting, we lit the second candle, the candle of PEACE. Last week, we lit the third candle, the candle of JOY. Today, we light a candle to remember the LOVE our Savior brings! We light these candles because they are reminders to help us wait and to watch.

**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          Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus- #56  
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 from Psalm 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Lord God, forgive us for our sins. Forgive us when we get ourselves in trouble. Our sin has put us in turmoil. The effects of our brokenness have caused harm to others, our world and ourselves. Forgive us.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
Amen.**



**We would prepare you room  
here in our hearts and here in our places, Lord Christ.**

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,  
even as we long for your return.

**O Prince of Peace, our elder brother, return  
soon. We miss you so! Amen.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

## SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY      *Savior of the Nations Come*  
based on plainsong melody *Eyn Enchiridion*,  
arr. by Geogiann H. Toole

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son,  
make Earth your home, marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.

From the God-head forth you came,  
and return unto the same, captive leading death and hell.  
High the song of triumph swell!

You the chosen Holy One, have o'er death the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be;  
when shall we its glories see?

Brightly does your manger shine, glorious is its light divine.  
Let not hate overcloud this light; ever be our faith so bright!  
—Ambrose of Milan, 4th century,

paraphrased by Martin Luther

\*DOXOLOGY - #965

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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      O Little Town of Bethlehem - #88 (verses 1 & 4)  
Tune: ST. LOUIS

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      *Personet Hodie*      Rebecca Groom teVelde

\*You may stand.

*Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes, preaching; Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas, liturgist;  
Steve and Laurie Orlow, readers; Kamerkoor; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.*

## T O D A Y

We welcome all who worship with us! We invite you sign in on the fellowship pads in the pew. We would appreciate it if you took a moment to sign in yourself and your family members and let us know you were here. **If you are joining us as a guest today**, please use the QR code to the right or head to [trcholland.org/quickstart](http://trcholland.org/quickstart) to let us know you were here.

ASSISTING TODAY: Deacons/Ushers: Roger DeYoung, Laura Baer, Jeff Voskuil.

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others, Jane Dalman and Russ Dykstra 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.)

**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.*

## C O N G R E G A T I O N A L   N E W S

*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 616-392-1459.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Hospice - Dennis Gebben, Cynthia Baine-DeMaagd, Ruth Heideman. Recovering from surgery and injury: Jane Dalman, Marka Faga, Bruce Bassett, Kathy Van Tubbergen. Quincy Place-Elle Kuiper, Gordon & Barbara Mummert; Appledorn-Donna Prins; Holland Cortland-Phyllis Brown, Barb Piaget; Maple Woods-Paula Wilson; Resthaven Farmstead-Dennis & Nancy Gebben. Missionaries - Wayne & Miho Jansen (Japan), Angel Lopez (Mexico).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: We 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 dress willing children in biblical costumes to be the still tableaux. We would love for your family to be part of this special service. Try to have your child(ren) here around 6:45 p.m. to put a costume on and to be told what they are to do. The children will not have to speak.** We will enjoy a cookies and punch reception after the service. The Christmas offering is designated for Resilience.

YOU'RE INVITED to an **All-Church Brunch on Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a combined worship service at 11:00 a.m.** Both events will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up to bring something to share by going to this web address: <https://tinyurl.com/5yya5ky6>

**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. 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.

**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 2024, 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. If you are giving shares of stock, the stock should be received in the church's account by December 31 (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 2024.

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday**

8:45 a.m. Kamerkoor  
10:00 a.m. English Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. Spanish Worship  
Gathering

### **Tuesday**

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Church Office  
Closed  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

### **Saturday**

9:30 a.m. El Encuentro Music  
Rehearsal  
9:30 a.m. Curso de Discipulado en  
Español