



Worship Service for the  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024

## The Lord Your God Welcomes You

**Prelude** "Prepare the Royal Highway"  
"The Son of Mary"

W. Held  
R. Farlee

### Greeting & Welcome

#### \*Mutual Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Choral Introit** "Prepare the Way"

H. Hopson

#### \*Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.  
**He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of  
our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days  
of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before  
the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the  
forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** “To God be the Glory”

LUYH 604

**\*Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Song of Worship** “You are my King (Amazing Love)”

Tomlin

## **The Lord Your God Forgives You**

**Call to Confession**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God’s mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident of God’s love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

*Silent Prayer*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, hear our prayer:**

**for the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;**

**for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;**

**for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us.**

**We pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

And now may our God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. Christ promises to strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and creator at the coming of the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

Based on 1 Thess. 3:12-13

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Deb: We light the Candle for the first week of Advent, the beginning of the Church's year. This first candle is the candle of life

Vivi: Jesus says that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”.

**All: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

### *Lighting of the Candle*

Vivi: Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.

**All: This we believe. For this is the will of our Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and he will raise him up on the last day.**  
John 3:15–16, John 3:36, John 6:40

## **The Lord Your God Speaks Good News**

### **Blessing for Children**

Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places. Help your children to trust in you when they feel lost or lonely. Shine hope into their hearts we pray. Amen.

(Children 4 years- 5th Grade are invited to follow the banner for Walk Out Worship.  
Children will return to the Sanctuary to join their families for Communion.)

**Scripture Reading** John 1:1-4

p. 886

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

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon** “The Beginning of Life”

## The Lord Your God Listens to Your Prayers

**\*Song of Response** "The Lord is King, Enthroned in Might"

LUYH 726

### Prayers of the People

## The Lord Your God Blesses You

**The Offering** Crossroads Prison Ministry

**Offertory** "Advent Grace"

L. Larson

### Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.  
Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's instruction, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
**Amen.**

**Communion Music** "As the Deer pants for the water"  
"We will Feast in the House of Zion"

LUYH 332  
McCracken

### Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Come thou Long Expected Jesus"

LUYH 56 vs 1,2,4

**\*Benediction**

## Postlude “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

R. Haan

### Credits & Liturgical Notes

**Preaching:** Rev. Tim Blackmon

**Advent Candles:** Deborah Erickson, Vivienne McCarthy

**Oboe:** Sally Wagenmaker

**Organ & Choir Director:** Jean Schuitman,

**Piano Accompanist:** Kari DeLange

**Piano & Prayers of the People:** Jennifer Fortosis

**Vocalists:** Chris Hordyk, Julie Hordyk, Christie VanderHeide

We display all music and readings on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) located in the pew rack;  
OneLicense.net #A-721176, CCLI#7750

### Welcome Guests:

Welcome visitors, we are glad you are here! Please fill out a Guest Registration Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket or scan the back of this bulletin for an online form. Also, join us for coffee and cookies after church so we can meet you!

### This Sunday:

**Walk Out Worship:** *4s-1st graders* will be marking the start of Advent by changing everything in their Worship Center room from green to purple!

*2nd-5th graders* will celebrate the start of Advent by putting "ADOREnaments" - names of Jesus Christ - on a tree.

**Special Offering:** *Crossroads Prison Ministry* connects people in prisons with mentors from churches to develop Christ-centered relationships as they study God's Word together. Crossroads envisions a world in which the Church answers God's call to remember people who are incarcerated by cultivating Christ-centered relationships through which God transforms lives, prisons and churches throughout the world.

**Sanctuary Banner:** The imagery of this banner is purposefully obscured to invite the viewer into its story. It was inspired by George Herbert's 1633 poem, "Easter Wings." In it, do I see myself lifted by Christ as I "imp my wing on thine?" (The verb "to imp" refers to the falconry practice of grafting flight feathers from one bird into the wing of another to help it fly better.) Or is it a dove symbolizing the power of the Holy Spirit? Or an angel heralding Christ's victory? The banner is composed of doilies donated by the congregation; wedding-dress lace; and over 100 prayer "feathers" written by the congregation and tucked (imped) into the wings. Mabelle Knochenhauer had construction help on the banner from nearly a dozen church members.

## Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

A special thank you to all who contributed to our annual Love In Action Thanksgiving food drive. We delivered 617 lbs. of food to the Central Food Pantry!

*Jan Zuidema* will be having knee replacement surgery on December 9 at Holland Hospital. Please pray for the surgeon and assistants, a minimum of pain, and a quick recovery. If you'd like to bring them a meal, sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/871y94>

*Ray Kuiper* has been transferred to Laurels of Hudsonville located on Van Bueren St. Please keep him and Shirley in your prayers.

*Ken Westveld* is at the Select Specialty Hospital of Corewell Health. Please keep him and Kathy in your prayers.

Please continue to keep *Ray & Shirley Kuiper, Tom Kapteyn, Mary North, and Glen Wierenga* in your prayers.

## Announcements:

**Angel Tree:** We are supporting the Christmas Shoppe at Love in Action. The Angel Tree is in the Atrium along the windows decorated with gift tags. Our donations will brighten Christmas for LIA's Housing Guests and the families of those in their "Financial Fitness" program. Please consider taking a tag from the tree and place the items unwrapped under the tree by Sunday, December 8. Thank you! ~ The Outreach Team

**Atrium Art Gallery:** The current display is called *Second's Choices: 2nd CRC's Acquired Art* and most of the works shown have been in one of the 56 exhibits held in the gallery since inception in 2005. Each piece has a story behind it, and many of the artists have spoken here of the role of art in the church and how their beliefs and faith are expressed in their art.

**Christmas Cards:** As the holidays approach, spread some love and Christmas cheer to some of our members by sending them cards. Please leave the envelopes unsealed to allow for easier opening, put your cards in alphabetical order, and tie them together. Cards can be placed in the boxes found in the narthex and atrium (near the office) by December 15. This year we are collecting cards for: *Claudia Alphenaar, Evelyn Baker, Jack & Marcia Brace, Conrad Brandsen, Donna DeVries, Hank DeYoung, Judy Doezeema, Jill Holman, Donna Kuiper, Ray Kuiper, Shirley Kuiper, Joan Loeper, Vic & Jean Nienhuis, Mary North, Barb VanHuis, Jan Veenstra, Jean VerStraete, Ruth Wallinga and Ken Westveld.*

**Faith Promise:** There's a table in the Atrium with Christmas Cards for our missionaries for you to wish them a blessed Christmas season. Please sign them by Sunday December 8.

**Outreach Updates:** We are seeking additional members to enlarge and enrich our Outreach team in 2025. If you are interested, please contact any member of the team: Steve Marotti at 616-366-2717, Mary Erickson at 616-842-4813 or Joanne Query at 616-260-1789.

**SWAN's:** Christmas is coming! Barb Hammond's invites us to her home for a beautiful Christmas tea on Wednesday December 11 at 3:30pm. Everyone is asked to bring a Christmas treat to share. We can carpool from church at 3:10. Call Carole at 616-502-2015 if you plan to come.

**Tool Time Men's Bible Study:** We meet on Saturdays from 8- 9am at church. Upcoming dates: Dec 7, and Dec 21. Questions, please contact Tony Razzini at 614-753-2164.

## Volunteer Schedule

### Dec 1, 2024

**Projection:** Dan Braak

**Video:** Mark Boelens, Jason Zuidema, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

**Sound:** Jim Warners

**Ushers:** Rick Geertsma (Team 4), Rosemary Geertsma, Dirk Weesies, Ralph VanDuyn

**Coffee Hosts:** Tony & Linda Razzini/ Jim & Joanne Query

**Nursery:** Mary Wierenga, Sam/Chris Farrar

**Little Lambs:** Cherise VanderHeide, Gabe Schaaf

**Walk Out 4s-1st:** Marie Rycenga, Reed VanStratt

**Walk Out 2nd-5th:** Betsy Blackmon, Amy Wolffis

**Greeters:** Tony Razzini, Jamie & Amy Goorman

**Offering:** Crossroads Prison Ministry

### December 8, 2024

**Projection:** Renee Mulder

**Video:** Chuck DeWitt, Jim Query, Dirk Weesies, Harley Dyk

**Sound:** Todd Cunningham

**Ushers:** Dan Braak (Team 5), Jeff Erickson, Joe Risselade, Paula Risselade

**Coffee Hosts:** Henk & Sharon Ottens / Jon & Renee Mulder

**Nursery:** Kari DeLange, Mary Terpstra

**Little Lambs:** Amy Wolffis, Lucia Folkert

**Walk Out 4s-1st:** Mary Winkle, Kyla Zuidema

**Walk Out 2nd-5th:** Annie Hoekzema, Ian Clapp

**Greeters:** Dale Schuitema, Glenn & Jan Gronewelt

**Offering:** Calvin University

## Calendar

### **Sunday, December 1**

10:00 AM– Sunday Service

11:30 AM– Bell Choir Rehearsal

### **Monday, December 2**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

1:30 PM– Ping Pong

### **Tuesday, December 3**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

7 PM – Friendship Club

### **Wednesday, December 4**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

1PM–Knitting/Craft Club

### **Thursday, December 5**

7 PM – Sanctuary Choir

### **Friday, December 6**

Office Closed

### **Saturday, December 7**

### **Sunday, December 8**

10:00 AM–Sunday Service

### **Connect with Second CRC**

2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417

(616) 842-0710

[admin@secondcrcgrandhaven.org](mailto:admin@secondcrcgrandhaven.org)

YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

### **Give Online:**



### **Guest Registration:**

