

## The Lord Your God Welcomes You

**Prelude** “Celtic Celebration”

Martin

**Greeting & Welcome**

**\*Mutual Greeting**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

All who come from near and far,  
**Come and worship.**

All who thirst for God,  
**Come and worship.**

All whose hearts overflow with gratitude and hope,  
**Come and worship.**

All whose hearts may be filled with despair or grief,  
**Come and worship.**

All who come with doubts or question about life in Jesus,  
**Come and worship.**

Through the grace of God's Holy Spirit,  
**Come, worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**\*Hymn of Praise** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

LUYH 81 vs 1,4,5

## \*Opening Prayer

Lighten our darkness, we humbly ask you, O Lord;  
and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## \*Song of Worship “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

LUYH 540

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

## Call to Confession

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light,  
and in him is no darkness at all.

**If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and  
do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son  
cleanses us from all sin.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:5–10

## Song of Confession “Thank you Jesus for the Blood”

Gayle

## Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the  
darkness. We confess we have not welcomed your light or trusted your good  
news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your presence.  
We have expected little and hoped for even less. Forgive our doubt and renew  
our faith, so we may receive the fullness of your grace, live in the truth  
of Jesus Christ our Lord, and experience the power  
of the Holy Spirit. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Rejoice! Jesus Christ, light in the darkness, forgives you and redeems you. At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:8–14

**\*Song of Assurance** "I Know that my Redeemer Lives"

LUYH 193 vs 1,4,7

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today, we light the second Advent candle, the candle of light. Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Lighting of the Candle

**For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.** Psalm 36:5–9

## The Lord Your God Speaks Good News

### Blessing for Children

Lord, you are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear. You are the strength of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid? We pray for our children, born in an anxious generation, that they will be of good courage. We pray their heart's desire will be to seek after you, to love your Word, to love people, and to bear witness to the light all their lives.

**Amen.**

(Children 4 years- 5th Grade are invited to follow the banner for Walk Out Worship.  
Children are dismissed at 11:20 from their classrooms located near the nursery.)

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

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon** “Lighten the Darkness”

**The Lord Your God Listens to Your Prayers**

**\*Song of Response** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LUYH 730

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord Your God Blesses You**

**The Offering** *Calvin University*

**Offertory** “Holy Forever”

Tomlin/ Wickham

**\*Closing Hymn** “Once in Royal David’s City”

LUYH 87 vs 1,4,5

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** “Wake, Awake”

J. Ferguson

**Credits & Liturgical Notes**

**Preaching:** Rev. Tim Blackmon  
**Advent Candles:** Jamie Goorman, Reed Van Stratt  
**Organ:** Jean Schuitman,  
**Piano:** Jennifer Fortosis  
**Prayer of the People:** Rob Wagenmaker  
**Vocalists:** Joslyn Wagenmaker, Rob Wagenmaker

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 ask, "Who will show us the way to Bethlehem?" each week to see who will lead us to the Christ child. Today children will learn about prophets; they will learn how prophets show us the way.

*2nd-5th graders* will continue meditating on the metaphor of "God the Weaver". Not only do we see this throughout the Old Testament, we see God's involvement when Mary is told she will have the long-awaited Messiah. We remember and believe: With God Nothing is Impossible!

**Special Offering:** *Calvin University* equips students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

## Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

*Jan Zuidema* will be having knee replacement surgery on Monday December 9 at Holland Hospital. Please pray for the surgeon and assistants, a minimum of pain, and a quick recovery.

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

*Ken Westveld* is at Holland Hospital. Please keep him and Kathy in your prayers.

Please continue to keep *The Becksvoots, Tom Kapteyn, Mary North, Barb VanHuis* and *Glen Wierenga* in your prayers.

## Announcements:

**Christmas Eve:** Our Christmas service this year will be on Tuesday December 24th at 5pm.

**Angel Tree:** We are supporting the Christmas Shoppe at Love in Action. Please place the items unwrapped with their tags under the tree by today Sunday, December 8. Thank you!

**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 today Sunday December 8.

**GVSU Campus Ministry Update:** Many thanks to the many bakers at 2nd CRC! The hospitality team at Campus Ministry was so thankful to receive the cookies and snacks for their two services at Cook-DeWitt Center! Close to 500 students were expected to be in attendance and 16 students were to be baptized. Outreach Team is so thankful for all the congregational support!

**Midweek Gathering:** Our Winter Midweek Gathering will begin on January 29. One of the sessions will be with Jeff Munroe on his book *Telling Stories in the Dark*. Copies of the book are available in the office with a suggested donation of \$20.

**Outreach Update:** We are also 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.

**We are Hiring:** We are looking for a *Communications Coordinator*. If you or anyone you know have a talent for writing, communications or secretarial work, please have them contact Amy Wolffis for the job description.

## Volunteer Schedule

### 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

### December 15, 2024

**Projection:** Eric Wolffis

**Video:** Harley Dyk, Jason Zuidema, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

**Sound:** Mike Katje

**Ushers:** Ron Brouwer (Team 6), Dave VanderHeide, Rob Wagenmaker, Doug Zuidema

**Coffee Hosts:** Jim Mulder/ Ron Retsema/ Dan & Melissa Meindertsma

**Nursery:** Kerri Bierma, Victoria McCarthy

**Little Lambs:** Manette deJonge, Vivian McCarthy

**Walk Out 4s-1st:** Barb Fritz, Frankie Folkert

**Walk Out 2nd-5th:** Lori Buitendorp, Cindy Brace

**Greeters:** Dennis Schaaf, Craig & Annie Hoekzema

**Offering:** Faith Promise-Steve & Kim Holtrop

## Calendar

### **Sunday, December 8**

10:00 AM– Sunday Service

11:30 AM– Bell Choir Rehearsal

### **Monday, December 9**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

1:30 PM– Ping Pong

### **Tuesday, December 10**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

7 PM – Friendship Club

### **Wednesday, December 11**

9 AM-1 PM–Office Hours

1PM–Knitting/Craft Club

3:30 PM – Swans Christmas Tea

### **Thursday, December 12**

7 PM – GHC Band/Choir Concert

7 PM – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, December 13**

Office Closed

### **Saturday, December 14**

### **Sunday, December 15**

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:**

