



Second Sunday of
Advent

December 8, 2024

**“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”
– Luke 3:4b**

Second Sunday of Advent

*** Please stand in body or in spirit**

Liturgist: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Preacher: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Ministry of Music: Covenant Choir and Sanctuary Choir

Covenant Choir Directors: Maria Schoon and Maria VandenBosch

Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director: Kenneth Bos

Pianist: Nancy Triezenberg

Cellists: Aubrey Visker, Josh Meyer, Hannah Triezenberg

Scripture Reader: Irene Konyndyk

Audio/Video: Graham Rayburn, Steve Triezenberg

Ten o'clock

December 8, 2024

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” [#70]

Austin C. Lovelace; Kristina Langlois

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Cello hymn: “Come, Lord Jesus”

Text and Music: Carey Landry

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Annaliese Hendrikse

Advent Reading and Prayer

David Hendrikse

Anthem: "Advent Carol"

Text and Music: Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Peace, peace! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings peace to you.

CONGREGATION: (Please join the choir when directed.)



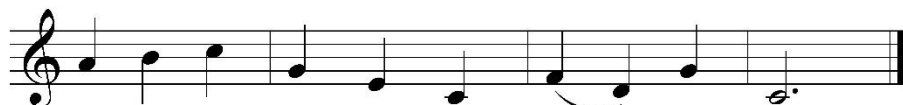
Peace, peace! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings peace to you.



Peace, peace! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings peace to you.

Text and music: Beth Kenreich

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CHOIR: Yes, Jesus our Savior brings hope, peace, joy, and love to you.

Advent Litany

(Based on Isaiah 60:1-2, Matthew 1:23, Micah 5:2-4, Isaiah 9:6, II Peter 1:19, John 4:25)

Ellie Leinberger, Lydia Meyer, Jubilee Heys

Chorister 1: Arise, children of God, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is upon you. Darkness may cover the earth, but on you, God's light shines.

The prophet Isaiah promised that the Lord will give us a sign. A virgin will give birth to a son, and he will be called Emmanuel.

Congregation: Emmanuel, God with us.

Chorister 2: The prophet, Micah, also told of Emmanuel's coming. Out of Bethlehem will come the Promised One. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. His greatness will bring light to the ends of the earth.

Chorister 3: He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the bright Morning Star.

He will be our Savior, our Messiah, our Emmanuel.
Come Messiah! Come Emmanuel!

Congregation: Come, Emmanuel, come today!

Anthem: “Prepare a Way for the Lord” Text and Music: Michael Bedford
Prepare a way for the Lord! Prepare a way for the Lord!
Get ready, get ready, he’s coming soon!

We light the Advent candles, we light them one by one;
We light the Advent candles, for God’s won Son!
We light the Advent candles and then we join to say,
“Make room in your hearts for Jesus who comes on Christmas Day!”

* Opening Hymn: “Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

#60:1-4

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord God, our lives are filled with sin.

**We forget our neighbor’s needs
and do not love you above all else.**

We need a Savior.

Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts.

O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Anthem of Assurance: “Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain”

Text: Isaiah 40, adapt.

Music: Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
lift up your voice, shout the good news:

Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will carry the lambs in his arms,
he will ever keep them safe from harm.

Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
he who fashioned the earth and the sea,
from time eternal, He was Alpha and Omega, He.

Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory,
he will rule with mercy and truth,
hope of the nations, Light of all the world.

He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms.

Love him and trust him as a child,

Behold, your Lord comes to you.

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: "Gloria, Gloria/Glory to God" **#83**

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God, in the highest heaven!

Peace be on earth, peace be on earth, alleluia, alleluia!

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

All: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

All: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

* Hymn of Preparation: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" **#70:1-4**

Prayer for Illumination

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **PREPARE**

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

#67:1-3

* Moment for Missions: Mark Wiersma and Anne Lucasse

* Offertory Prayer for Mission Outreach

Deacon: God, your generosity to us is abundant and gracious.

Everything we have comes from you.

All: Receive our gifts of our time, our selves, and our possessions.

Help us to grow in gratitude and joy as we follow Jesus. Amen.

* Benediction

* Doxology: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

#70:5

All praise to you, eternal Son,

Whose advent has our freedom won,

Whom with the Father we adore,

And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

* Postlude: “Savior of the Nations, Come” [#74]

Johann Pachelbel

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 8, 2024

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM, Second Sunday of Advent

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers preaches from Luke 3:1-6, the Covenant and Sanctuary Choirs lead us in music.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

Morning worship: The children of Calvin Church will lead us in a musical program telling the story of Christmas, and the offering will be for the Ministry Fund.

Evening worship: The Festival Choir, Covenant Choir, and Allegro Ringers will lead us in a Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols. The musical prelude will begin at 4:45 PM.

Advent and Christmas worship schedule:

- December 22: fourth Sunday of Advent, 10 AM worship
- December 25: Christmas morning, 10 AM worship
- December 29: first Sunday after Christmas, 10 AM worship
- December 31: New Year's Eve, 5 PM worship

COUNCIL NEWS

The Council has scheduled a **Congregational Meeting, TODAY**, following our morning worship service. At this meeting we will vote on two matters: 1) our disaffiliation from the CRCNA, and 2) our annual budget. Please remain in prayer for a good discernment on these significant issues. Due to constraints imposed upon us by our bylaws and the Church Order of the CRCNA, absentee ballots will not be accepted at this congregational meeting.

The proposed budget is viewable on a password-protected page at www.calvincrc.org. Call the office if you need the password. Paper copies are on the information table in the Narthex.

As we near the end of the year the Deacons would like to provide a financial update:

- Ministry Fund = \$610,000 through 12/1. \$770,000 is needed to cover annual expenses.
- Missions = \$56,200 through 12/1. \$56,000 is the annual goal.
- Community Care = \$28,200 through 12/1. \$39,500 is the annual goal.
- Family Assistance = \$56,600 through 12/1.

Thank you for your continued generosity and financial support!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE continues during normal Worship and Wonder time and will carry on through the date of the program (Sunday, December 15).

During the Advent season, members of the Covenant and Cherub choirs will be leading worship. The liturgy will include a processional of the Light and the Word. A chorister will light the candle of hope, peace, joy, and love each week, and another chorister will present an open Bible to represent the Word made Flesh. This year we are honored to use a family Bible belonging to John and June Primus, longtime members of Calvin Church, and great-grandparents of Annaliese and David Hendrikse.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

GALLERY ART: For Advent, two of Elly Nyhof's quilts are on display in the Atrium. Can you tell what words the Christmas trees in the center of each quilt are?

ONE ANOTHERING: We will not meet today, to allow everyone to participate in the congregational meeting. We will meet for our final time next Sunday, December 15, at 11:30 AM.

HOMEBOUND CARD BAGS: Season's greetings for our homebound members will once again be collected in the Narthex. We are grateful that the children decorated the 16 bags. A list of homebound members is available at the card table. Cards may be placed in the bags until Sunday morning, December 22.

Helpers needed: After the morning service on December 22, we need volunteers to deliver the bags with Christmas cards for our homebound members. They need to be delivered before Christmas Day.

BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS? If you'd like to get rid of those old or broken Christmas decorations or lights in a responsible, environmentally safe way, bring them to church and place them in the Comprenew bin. Comprenew is a local, non-profit committed to repairing and reusing when possible or safely recycling when not. They accept any electronic equipment - if it plugs in or lights up, take it to Comprenew! Visit their website at www.comprenew.org

LAST CALL FOR TRIP: To guarantee having your gift cards on time for Christmas gift giving, the order must be in by Wednesday, December 11. Talk to Donna today after the service or call her at home (534-4365) or send her an email. New order forms are on the table in the narthex.

Our next **BON APPETIT BREAKFAST** will be December 13 at 9:30 AM at Russ's in Wyoming. Mark your calendar. All invited. Please, RSVP to Sue Keegstra by December 11.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Calvin Church's annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols is planned for Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 PM. Our Festival Choir is looking for singers to sing with us. Former choristers, wannabe choir members, and all lovers of music are all welcome. There will be three Wednesday evening choir rehearsals beginning on November 27 at 7 PM. Contact Ken Bos or any choir member if you have questions.

Calvin's ongoing donations to Baxter Community Center are an important way to express our thanks to God for all that He has given us and to share those blessings with others. In this advent season, and throughout the month of December, **we will be collecting non-perishable items for Baxter's "Marketplace" in the Baxter cart in the atrium.** Contributions such as boxed and canned foods, hygienic supplies such as shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, dish soap, and laundry detergent are excellent choices to help Baxter restock their pantry shelves. Baxter neighborhood is in a "food desert", meaning there are no grocery stores within a walkable distance for those without transportation. Baxter's Marketplace plays a vital role in neighborhood care and outreach. Thank you from the Community Care/Social Justice Committee

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Choral Scholars, a 12-voice singing group including Pastor Rebecca, will present a concert of Advent and Christmas music, "O Emmanuel," on Saturday, December 21 at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 227 Fulton St. No tickets are required.

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Gwen Overbeek Nursery Volunteer: Ali Buist
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Judy Stoner Coffee Servers: Paul Bulthuis, Judy Alphenaar
11:20a	Christmas Program Practice
11:30a	Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary Calvin host for St. Luke: Cindy Brink
3:30p	CYG Bible Study in the Catacomb
	<i>Monday, December 9</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Tuesday, December 10</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Wednesday, December 11</i>
5:45p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Bell Room
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
6:15p	Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Festival Choir rehearsal in the Balcony 78ers Christmas Party
	<i>Thursday, December 12</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
10:00a	Quilting in Room 1
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Friday, December 13</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Saturday, December 14</i>
9:00a	Kids' Program Practice
1:00p	Festival Choir practice
	<i>Next Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Suzi Stekete Nursery Volunteer: Gwen Hendrikse
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Mary Calsbeek Coffee Servers: Rick and Lori Feenstra
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary Calvin host for St. Luke: Marissa Dierlam
4:45p	Prelude for Candlelight Service
5:00p	Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126, CCLI#2532147, and CSPL#175060.
- Our Advent banner visually proclaims the beginning of the liturgical year. Its design reflects a world awaiting the Messiah, with the circular form representing the familiar Scriptural metaphor—Light. Its implication is both past and present. As Israel did long ago, so are we to prepare ourselves and this world with steadfast minds and joyful hearts that he may return in the fullness of time.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system.



For Children:

- Ages 0-2: Infant and toddler nurseries are available.
- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers in the nursery prior to the morning worship.
- K-2nd: After the Children's Message the Children's Worship ministry meets downstairs in Rooms 11 & 13 until the conclusion of worship. Parents meet their children there following the service.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon
616-451-8467 Office@CalvinCRC.org www.CalvinCRC.org