



Fourth Sunday of
Advent

December 22, 2024

“He has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.” ~ Luke 1:48

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Rev. Brad Zwiers
Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys
Ministry of Music: Covenant Choir
Choir Director: Maria Schoon
Organist: Dorothy Frisch
Accompanist: Nancy Triezenberg
Cellists: Josh Meyer, Hannah Triezenberg, Aubrey Visker
Scripture Reader: Karl VanHarn
Audio/Video: Arc Frisch, Steve Triezenberg

*** stand in body or in spirit.**

Ten o'clock

December 22, 2024

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” [#61]

Five Little Variations on “Savior of the Nations, Come” [#74]

“People Look East” and “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” [#70]

Curt Oliver

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Cello hymn: “Come, Lord Jesus”

text and music: Carey Landry

Lighting the Candle of Love

Nate Meyer

Advent Reading and Prayer

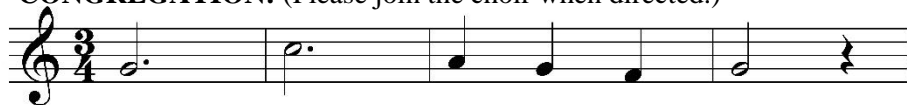
Jack Rayburn

Anthem: "Advent Carol"

text and music: Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Love, love! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings love to you.

CONGREGATION: (Please join the choir when directed.)



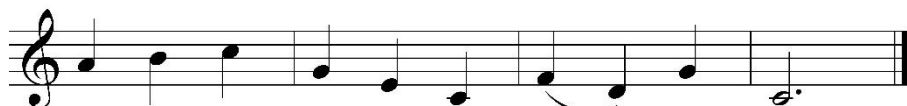
Love, love! Hear the good news:



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



Love, love! Hear the good news:



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

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)

Nate Meyer, 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 own 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: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

#81:1-4

* God's Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**All: O God, we live as if the light
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.
It's time that we prepare for your coming.
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of Jesus.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

* Hymn of Assurance: "My Spirit Glorifies the Lord"
(sing stanza 5 in unison)

#383:1-5

* 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

Anthem: “Unto Us”

text and music: Mark Patterson

refrain

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Come and worship Christ the Lord, born this day in a manger stall,

born to reign as the Lord of all. Hail, the Prince of Peace!

Hail, the King of kings! Christ, the promised Savior is born!

Angels sing to welcome him, shepherds kneel to worship him,

wise men bring their treasures from afar. Behold the promised Son of God!

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

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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#88:1-4

(sing stanza 4 in unison)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-55

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: A SONG FOR THE LOWLY

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

#69:1-4

* Invitation to Offering: Elly Nyhof

* Offertory Prayer for Community Care

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: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

#81:5

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One;

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,

the newborn King! Amen.

* Postlude: Fanfare on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” [#80] Robert A. Hobby

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 22, 2024

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM

Morning worship: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from Luke 1:39-55, “A Song for the Lowly.” The Covenant Choir leads us in ministry of music.

WORSHIP Christmas Day, December 25, 10 AM

Morning Worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers will preach the Christmas story from Luke 2 and Arc, Dorothy, and Kurt Frisch will provide the ministry of music. The offering will be for Community Care.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 29

Morning worship: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Luke 2:41-52, “Whose Child?” Trudi Huizenaga will lead us in ministry of music, and the offering will be for Family Assistance.

WORSHIP Tuesday, December 31, 5PM, New Year’s Eve

Evening worship: We thank God for God’s faithfulness in the past year and trust in God’s providence for the year to come. Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, “What Time is It?” and we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

CHURCH FAMILY

85+ YEAR OLD BIRTHDAYS:	1/5 MaryLou Wilkins (94)
1/8 Pat Keyser (90)	1/16 Mary Brummel (85)
1/18 Hans Bokhout (87)	1/22 Clare Walhout (91)
1/23 Ann Noteboom (102)	1/25 Chuck Fullmer (93)

Ann Boermans (district 8) passed away on Saturday, December 14. A funeral service is pending. We rejoice in the hope of the resurrection.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAY: 1/9 David Hendrikse (9)

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 see the words the Christmas trees in the center of each quilt spell?

FRENCH CHRISTMAS MANGER (*Crèche*): Be sure to stop by the display case in the Atrium to view the French Christmas Manger (*Crèche*) collection put there by Irene Konyndyk, who has been collecting figurines for more than 50 years. Read the written explanations on the nursery windows above the display.

According to the tradition in the South of France, not only did the 3 kings come to bring gifts to the baby Jesus, the townspeople did also – each one with something particular to their life and work: a bundle of sticks, a basket of eggs, a rabbit or chicken, some lavender, or a dance expressing great joy. The *santons* (little saints), handmade from clay and hand painted by artisans, are dressed in clothing that expresses who they are.

Bring your children to take a look and have them pick out their favorite *santon* and tell you what that person is bringing and why they like it best!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed December 23 and 25. The office will be staffed on Tuesday and Thursday only. The office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1. The office will be staffed December 30, 31, and January 2. Bulletin announcements are due Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31 by noon.

THE GIVING TREE: KidsHope has a Christmas Tree with yellow stars hanging from its branches in the Atrium. Each star has a school supply item written on it. We would like you to take a star, purchase the item, bring it to church, and put it under the Giving Tree by January 5. Thank you!

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 on the card table. Cards may be placed in the bags until Sunday morning, December 22.

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

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

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS KAPUT? You can safely and responsibly dispose of Christmas lights and electronic decorations from now through Sunday, January 5 by placing them in the Comprenew bin located in the atrium. Comprenew is a local non-profit committed to safely recycling electronic equipment. To learn more about their services visit their website at www.comprenew.org.

BLOOD DRIVE DATES FOR 2025: The Calvin Church blood drive dates for 2025 are February 19, April 16, and October 15. Put these dates on your calendar and hope to see you there!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Please join 70x7 Life Recovery at a free Mentor Relaunch Luncheon on Thursday, Jan 30 at 11:30 AM at Christ Memorial Church (595 Graafschap Rd, Holland). We will share more about our ministry, the importance of mentorship to those returning from incarceration, and the blessing you could be to them during their recovery. For more information and to register visit 70x7liferecovery.org or contact Carly at carlyj@70x7liferecovery.org.

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Christine Coulter
	Nursery Volunteers: Melisa Hubka, Claire Veldkamp
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Evonne Kok
	Coffee Servers: Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Jan Wilkins
	<i>Monday, December 23</i>
	Office Closed
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Tuesday, December 24</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day</i>
9:40a	Nursery: Sue Keegstra, Merri Ezinga
10:00a	Worship Service
	<i>Thursday, December 26</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Friday, December 27</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Next Sunday, December 29</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Rachel Rayburn
	Nursery Volunteers: Cindy Lanning Burch, Kate Rayburn
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Judy Alphenaar
	Coffee Servers: Mark and Marlene Vanderhill
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Kristy Ippel



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: Tuesday Noon
616-451-8467 Office@CalvinCRC.org www.CalvinCRC.org