



First Sunday of
Advent

December 1, 2024

**“When you see these things taking place,
you know that the kingdom of God is near.” – Luke 21:31**

First Sunday of Advent

This morning, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, a gracious gift that God provides to Christ’s body, the church. All who have been baptized into Christ and who desire to honor him with grateful and obedient living are invited to participate in this sacrament, discerning that this bread and cup are signs and seals of God’s love for us and that we who participate are members of Christ’s body.

We serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Liturgist: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Ministry of Music: Covenant Choir and Sanctuary Choir

Covenant Choir Directors: Maria Schoon and Maria VandenBosch

Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director: Kenneth Bos

Pianists: Lisa Meyer and Nancy Triezenberg

Recorder Player: Barb Vis

Cellists: Aubrey Visker, Josh Meyer, Hannah Triezenberg

Scripture Reader: Abram Veldkamp

Ten o’clock

December 1, 2024

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” [#56]

Robert Powell; Edwin Childs; Charles Callahan; David McCarthy

Welcome and Announcements

Procession of Light and The Word

Cello hymn: “Come, Lord Jesus”

Text and Music: Carey Landry

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Claire Veldkamp

Advent Reading and Prayer

Micah Veldkamp

Anthem: "Advent Carol"

Text and Music: Beth Kenreich

CHOIR: Hope, hope! Hear the good news. Jesus our Savior brings hope to you.

CONGREGATION: (Please join the choir when directed.)



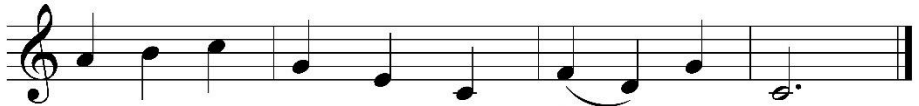
Hope, hope! Hear the good news:



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



Hope, hope! Hear the good news:



Je - sus our Sav - ior brings hope 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) Nate Meyer, Annaliese Hendrikse, Claire Veldkamp

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: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#56:1-4

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord, we have not kept watch for you.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

**All: Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.**

Hymn of Confession: “O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock”

#64:1-2

* Assurance of Pardon

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: “Gloria, Gloria”

#83:1-2

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

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

* Hymn of Preparation: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

#478:1-4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

page 856

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **A WARNING AND A PROMISE**

Prayer of Application

CHRIST WELCOMES US TO THE TABLE

Invitation

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Great Thanksgiving

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells and whose coming we await.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be for us a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: Thanks be to God: Christ makes us one.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(God has given us his peace, and we are invited to offer that peace to one another. Many people do this by shaking hands, but if for any reason you would rather not shake hands, you are encouraged to pass the peace with a smile and a nod, as you say, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

Distribution Anthems: "Restore Us, O God"

Text: based on Psalm 80, adapt. by Burt Burlinson, Martin Tel, and Carlos Colón

Music: Carlos Colón

Shepherd, guardian of your flock, you, enthroned in heavenly height,
to your people bend your ear, show your power, send your light!

Restore us, O God, cause thy face to shine on us.

Restore us, O God, that we may be saved.

God of hosts, we cry, "How long will you spurn your people's prayers,
while we drink the scoffer's brew, and we eat the bread of tears?"

Long ago you led your flock out of bondage, want and fear.

Now again we are consumed. Rouse yourself, O God, draw near.

From your heavens look down and see all our sorrow, grief, and pain.

We will turn to you again, we will call upon your name.

"Comfort, Comfort"

Music: Genevan Psalter

Text: Johann G. Olearius, tr. Catherin Winkworth

arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, comfort now my people. Tell of peace!" So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad.
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: "What Feast of Love"

#96:1-3

* Invitation to Offering: Marissa Dieleman

* Offertory Prayer for Benevolence

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: "Song of Hope"

#941:1-2

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way.
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Refrain

**Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all.
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**God will be our shepherd as we go our way
And will not forsake us when we go astray.
Even though the load of life is hard to bear,
We must not forget that God is always there.**

* Postlude: "The King Shall Come" [#476]

David N. Johnson

Calvin CRC Announcements for December 1, 2024

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM, First Sunday of Advent

Morning worship: On this first Sunday of Advent, Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from Luke 21:25-36. The Covenant Choir and Sanctuary Choir lead us in ministry of music, and we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers will preach from Luke 3:1-6, the Covenant and Sanctuary Choirs will lead us in music, and the offering will be for Missions.

Advent and Christmas worship schedule:

December 15: third Sunday of Advent, 10 AM children's Christmas program,
5 PM Candlelight Festival of Lessons and Carols

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

COUNCIL NEWS

The Council has scheduled a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, December 8, 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/leadership. Call the office if you need the password. Paper copies are on the information table in the Narthex.

LISTENING CIRCLES: As we continue the disaffiliation process from the CRC, your pastors and council members are making available a time to process and listen to one another. You may sign up for a time of conversation on the table in the narthex or by contacting the church office. The available times are TODAY at 11:30 AM; Sunday, December 1 at 11:30 AM; or Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 PM. These sessions will take place in the Lounge.

If you missed the "Coffee with the Council President" discussion on Sunday, November 17, the two handouts from that session are available on the narthex table. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your elder or deacon.

BUDGET ENVELOPES are in mailboxes. If you regularly use envelopes and did not receive yours, contact the office.

Cindy Brink, our Treasurer, and Philip DeJonge, our President of Council, will be available in a corner of the fellowship room today during the after-worship coffee time to answer any questions you may have about the budget or disaffiliation vote scheduled for the congregational meeting on December 8.

CHURCH FAMILY

Beloved Calvin Church family: Thank you for warming my heart and building my spirits through your prayers, inquiries and expressions of encouragement following recent eye surgery. You've helped me toward an excellent recovery.

Ron Rozema

Elaine VanKley (district 2) passed away on Monday, November 25. A funeral service is planned for today, Sunday, December 1, at 2:00 PM at Zaagman Memorial Chapel. May the God of all comfort be near to Elaine's family members and friends. We grieve, but we do not grieve as those without hope.

Irene Wiersma (district 7) passed away on Tuesday, November 26. A funeral service is pending. May God grant his comfort during this time.

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.

Your participation in our interactive Thanksgiving display is appreciated! There was some nice art by the kids and many things listed that we are thankful for.

THE FAMILY DINNER for December 4th will be hosted by Vandenberg, Nancy Triezenberg, and Dale and Joanie Rosema.

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

TRIP Gift Cards: are an easy way to get some Christmas gifts bought, not have to battle traffic, and benefit Calvin Church's ministry fund all at the same time. However, demand at the TRIP office intensifies this time of year, so you will want to order yours soon. See Donna at the TRIP table in the narthex before or after services, call her (534-4365), or send her an email (dhouskamp@grcs.org).

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

Our next **BON APPETIT BREAKFAST** will be December 13 at 9:30 AM at Russ's in Wyoming. Mark your calendar. All invited. More details later.

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Julie DeKoster
	Nursery Volunteers: Karen Trap, Aubrey Visker
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Anjean Stegink
	Coffee Servers: Don and Karen Trap
11:20a	Christmas Program Practice in Room 9
11:30a	One Anothering meets in Room 1
	Listening Circle in the Lounge
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: LeRoy Stegink
	<i>Monday, December 2</i>
3:00p	Book Club meets in the Lounge
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Tuesday, December 3</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Wednesday, December 4</i>
5:00p	Family Supper in the Fellowship Hall
5:30p	Listening Circle meet ins in the Lounge
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
	Kid's Club and 78ers
	<i>Thursday, December 5</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Friday, December 6</i>
6:00p	AA meeting in Room 16
	<i>Next 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



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