

The First Sunday of Advent

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 1, 2024 10:00 AM

 *Invites the congregation to stand, as able*

Bold Text is spoken in unison by the congregation



The Sanctuary main floor is equipped with a loop system for the hearing impaired

We are happy you are here this morning!

Third Reformed Church celebrates the gospel of Jesus as the way God moves people from exclusion to embrace by grace through faith. As a gospel community we are fully inclusive of all people who seek to know, love, and follow Jesus in a life of faith regardless of race, class, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Veni, Veni

arr. Chip Davis

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

Ron and Deb Roden, Lisa and Henry Kuiper

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Rowland Prichard

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
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**Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

INVITATION TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Blessing

Congregation: **May the Lord bless you as you worship and learn.**

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Dismiss

The people offer a sign of peace to one another

CHORAL ANTHEM

O Come to Us, Emmanuel

Joseph Martin

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD

Psalm 25:1-10 (*OT pg. 465*)

MESSAGE

Finding Our Way

The Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

WE RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF THE LORD'S TABLE

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 574

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty . . .

. . . With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven
we worship and adore your glorious name.

-Sung-

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Early in the morning

our song shall rise to thee

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty

God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Most righteous God . . .

. . . Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray . . .

. . . Even so, **come Lord Jesus!**

Congregants are invited to come forward to receive and eat the bread and drink the cup.

The communion bread is gluten-free.

☒ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 135

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

☒ BENEDICTION

☒ POSTLUDE

Carol of the Birds

arr. John Carter

If you brought an offering this morning, please put it in an offering plate, located on the tables in the narthex.
Offerings may also be mailed to the church, made online at: <https://thirdgr.breezechms.com/give/online>
or made by scanning the QR code below.

Make an Offering



*Assisting God's people in worship this morning are:
the Rev. Jeffrey Petersen, Senior Pastor
Ron Roden, liturgist
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music
Adult Choir under the direction of Paul Boelkins
Praise Team
Josie Breukink, sound technician
AJ Arechiga, projectionist/livestream technician*

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

The VanderLeek Family, Bruce and Susie Neckers - Greeters

Our Community Life Team – Advent Breakfast

NEXT WEEK (December 8)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

Ron and Tammy Schollaart, Joyce Bengelink

Liturgist:

Ingrid Baird

Coffee and Cookies:

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

December 15

The Maddox Family, Nancy McIntyre

December 22

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman

December 29

TBD

January 5

Keith and Paula Boeve, Dave and Paige Hendrickson

January 12

Gary Graeff and Kim Krause

Beverly, Lucas and Ivy Haycraft

January 19

The Debowski Family, Steve and Marge Kemink

January 26

Bob and Ingrid Baird, Bill Dykstra

***Please call or email the office if you have a conflict with the date you are scheduled for.**

ARE YOU VISITING?

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a moment to fill out a “visitor card,” found in each pew, and give it to one of our pastors. Or, simply scan the QR code below and fill out a “visitor form.”

Contact Information



WE LOVE TO SEE YOU SMILE!

Help us make Breeze even better by adding or updating your picture or your family's picture. If you are not familiar, Breeze is our church management software, which is private and accessible to members only. It is the "church directory of our time." If you are not a Breeze user and would like to be, contact Lisa Roskiewicz in the church office to get started. If you are a Breeze user and have given it a good look lately, you will find that the pictures are either blank or slightly outdated. In December, we will be adding and updating pictures in Breeze. **Ron and Tammy Schollaart are available this morning to take pictures.** They will be taking pictures next Sunday (December 8) as well. If you are not able to be here but would like your picture or your family's picture added or updated, please email Lisa in the office a recent picture.

NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOM (LITTLE LAMBS)

We provide care during worship for our little ones, from birth through 3-years-old. The nursery and the toddler room are both located at the southwest end of the building (rooms 104 and 105) near the church office. A great big thank you to Holly Crow for caring for our little ones this morning.

[Click here to sign up to help on a future Sunday](#)



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

All children, ages 4 years (must be 4 by Sept. 2024) through 5th grade, will be invited during the worship service to dismiss to their own worship space. The children can be picked up following the service in the children's wing (east side of the building).

- There is so much to celebrate at Christmas, and for the month of December we are focusing on Jesus, God's greatest gift! God always had a plan to send Jesus. Our monthly scripture comes from Matthew 1:21 "Mary is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."
- Parents, be sure to review the take-home sheets / devotionals that go along with the weekly lesson to keep the lesson alive throughout the week. It's important to engage in these moments that are rooted in pointing our days to God. "God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life." 2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?

If you are in need of prayer or know of someone who is, or if you would like to receive prayer requests via the prayer chain, please contact Paula Boeve @ 616.581.5459 or psvsboo@aol.com, or call the church office. Prayer requests are sent out by Paula and received by you via email.



Continue to Remember our Friends – Nancy Bloem, Mary Boelkins, Len Nagel, Virginia Schollaart, Dee Scully, Sandy Swan, Char Van Slooten (Paula Boeve’s mother) and Joan Vila.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR ADVENT

Advent is here! Are you looking for a daily devotional to use during this season of preparation? Consider “The Weary World Rejoices – A Daily Advent Devotional” by Kate Bowler. This devotional is wonderfully written and can be used on your own or with your family. It includes readings from different modern writers and has links to Ms. Bowler’s conversations with people like Parker Palmer and Anne Lamott.

You can find a paper copy in the Connection Center, or you can find it online by clicking here: https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/#guides



YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 @ 12 PM

On The Menu: Meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, garden salad and a yummy dessert!
Cost is \$20

After we enjoy our meal, Walt Lockwood will share an autobiographical writing with us about Christmas.

Please sign up in the Connection Center or by clicking the link below:
[Click here to sign up for the luncheon](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY	Advent Breakfast	8:30 – 9:45 AM
December 1	Worship Service	10:00 AM
	Celebration of the Lord's Supper	
	Children's Worship Offered	
MONDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
December 2		
TUESDAY	Worship Planning Meeting	10:30 AM
December 3		
WEDNESDAY	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	11:00 AM
December 4	Young at Heart Gathering	12:00 PM
	On the menu: Meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, garden salad and a yummy dessert!	
	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
THURSDAY	Ele's Place Program	5:30 PM
December 5		
SUNDAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
December 8	Children's Worship Offered	
	Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School	11:30 AM
	Christmas Tree Lighting and Hot Cocoa	5:30 PM
	7/8 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM
	9/12 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Sunday, December 8

5:30 – 7 pm - Christmas Tree Lighting and Hot Cocoa

Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn to bring light to the corner of Michigan Street and Lakeside! You will have the opportunity to create homemade ornaments that morning during 2nd Hour and we will hang them on the tree, and sing a carol or two! There will also be hot cocoa served by the middle school youth group with lots of fun toppings!

Wednesday, December 18

6 – 7:30 pm – Christmas Dinner

Join us for the last “Wednesday Night Connections” of 2024! We will have a Christmas ham dinner with a yummy dessert followed by Christmas caroling (indoor event).

Sunday, December 22

10 – 11 am – Christmas Family Service

Following Worship - Christmas Cookie Sunday

It is our tradition here at Third to share and enjoy our homemade Christmas goodies during fellowship time following worship.

Tuesday, December 24

8 – 9 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS CARD MINISTRY: Please consider blessing some of our members with a Christmas card and handwritten note. The gift bags to be filled with cards will be on the table in the narthex next week, where they will be until Sunday, December 15. Please remember:

Carl and Elleen Anderson
Nancy Bloem
Mary Boelkins
John Datema
Len Nagel

Virginia Schollaart
Dee Scully
Fred and Carol Slade
Sandy Swan
Kathie Van Hoven
Joan Vila

If you know someone or think someone has been left off the list who would find joy from this ministry, please let one of our pastors know or call the church office.



FOOD PANTRY

This month we have been collecting crackers for the Pantry. Thank you to all of you who have contributed. In December, which is only a week away, we will be collecting **shampoo**. Please drop off your donation on the table in the “gathering space” or space by the church mailboxes. You may also make a monetary donation, which can be put in the white mailbox on the food donation table.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR NE SUPPER HOUSE

Our Third tradition of serving the Christmas dinner at Supper House is set for Tuesday, December 17. Supper House is in need of volunteers from 4:45 – 6:30 pm, as well as gifts. A gift is given to each guest at the dinner. This tradition has become something many who serve and who are served look forward to!

You can help in three ways i.e. **volunteer at the dinner** - click here to [Volunteer at the Dinner](#) or sign up at the Connection Center, **donate a new unwrapped gift for any age** (see list of ideas below), **donate money to Supper House**. Please put your unwrapped gift donations on the table in the hallway near the narthex. The “White NECM Box” for monetary donations is on the food collection table in the gathering space (near the church mailboxes). We will be collecting gifts here at Third until Sunday, December 17. A few gift ideas:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Blankets | “Bag” Lawn Chairs |
| Pillows | Gas/Grocery Store Gift Cards (\$10-\$25) |
| Sleeping Bags | Small Oscillating Fans |
| Backpacks | Lotion, Bath Sets, Body Wash, etc. |
| Flashlights | Towels |
| Pots or Pans | Duffel Bags |
| Puzzles | Small Stuffed Animals |
| Inspirational Books | Small Toys, Books, Coloring Books |
| Insulated Mugs | Dolls |
| Carry-on Size Rolling Luggage | Art Supplies for Children & Adults |
| Candles | |



Third Reformed Church

**A community of Christ's disciples,
and the presence of Christ to our neighbors.**

YOUR 2024/2025 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Kirk Breukink, Vice President
Melissa VanderLeek, Clerk
Len De Braber
Walt Lockwood
Dawn Muller
Windy Schnelker
Barb Teitsma

DEACONS

Brandon Slomp, Assistant Treasurer
Marc Coleman, Chair of Deacons
Jason Crow
Ryan De Korte
Bill Hamlin
Karen Vander Meulen

PRESIDENT

Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

TREASURER

Karen Vander Meulen

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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