
The Third Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 15, 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.

PRELUDE

*Angels We Have Heard On High
Away In A Manger*

Traditional French Carol
James R. Murray

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

Jason, Holly, Anna and Noah Crow

 CAROL 157

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

READING

Advent Calendar

Rowan Williams

*He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has played the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.*

*He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.*

*He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.*

*He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.*

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

READING

Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19 (OT pg. 503)

CHORAL ANTHEM

Poverty

Traditional Welsh Carol

*All poor souls and humble,
all lame souls who stumble.
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid.
For Jesus our treasure,
with love without measure,
in lowly poor manger is laid.*

*Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay.
And Jesus in beauty
accepted their duty
(contented in manger he lay).*

*Then haste we to show him
the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise.
Whose love still is able
to show us that stable
where softly in manger he lies.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In this season of waiting and watching, we gather and we pray,
Come, Lord Jesus, your creation groans in longing.

We confess that we often walk through life
numb, callused, and blind to the suffering that is experienced by others.
Come, Lord Jesus, your creation groans in longing.

We confess that there are times when our own activity,
or lack of activity, adds to the darkness around us.
Come, Lord Jesus, your creation groans in longing.

And we confess that there are days when that darkness feels too deep.
Lord, we gather shocked and scared by the depths of sin
in a world where atrocities steal innocence and life.
Come, Lord Jesus, your creation groans in longing.

Father, we confess that you are good and loving and kind.
We confess that your faithfulness knows no end.
And we confess the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died
So that the world might be reconciled.
Christ has risen
So that death may not reign.
Christ will come again
So that he can wipe every tear from our eyes.

In this season of waiting and watching, we gather and we pray,
Come, Lord Jesus, for you are mighty to save.

Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Shout to the North

arr. Marty Parks

*Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete*

*Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love*

CHORUS

*Oh, shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of Heaven and Earth
We will shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is Savior to all
Lord of Heaven and Earth*

*We've been through fire, we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of his name
We've fallen deeper in love with you
You've burned the truth on our lips*

CHORUS

*Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly*

CHORUS

MEDITATION

The Rev. Jeffrey Petersen

READING

Luke 1:26-38 (NT pg. 49)

✠ CAROL 150

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

READING

Luke 1:46-55 (NT pg. 49)

✠ CAROL 145

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (NT pg. 1)

CHORAL ANTHEM

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Keith and Kristyn Getty

*Jesus, joy of the highest heaven
Born as a little baby
Under a wondrous star
Like us, crying, He takes His first breath
Held by His mother, helpless
Close to her beating heart*

*Jesus, laid in a lowly manger
Facing a world of dangers
Come to turn me a stranger
Into a child of God*

*Jesus, King of the highest heaven
Learning to take His first steps
That He might bring us life
Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows
He showed the way to follow
A way that is true and right*

*Jesus, take away every darkness
Steady my simple footsteps
That I might, in Your goodness
Live as a child of God*

*O come, O come Emmanuel
within this fragile vessel here to dwell.
O Child conceived by heaven's power
give me thy strength: it is the hour.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high;
like any babe at life you cry;
for me, like any mother, birth
was hard, O light of earth.*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
whose birth came hastily at night,
born in a stable, in blood and pain
is this the king who comes to reign?*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
the stars will be thy diadem.
How can the infinite finite be?
Why choose, child, to be born of me?*

*O come, thou key of David, come,
open the door to my heart-home.
I cannot love thee as a king-
so fragile and so small a thing.*

*O come, thou Day-spring from on high:
I saw the signs that marked the sky.
I heard the beat of angels' wings
I saw the shepherds and the kings.*

*O come, Desire of nations, be
simply a human child to me.
Let me not weep that you are born.
The night is gone. Now gleams the morn.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,
God's Son, God's Self, with us to dwell.*

☩ CAROL 162

The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

THE FIRST NOEL

☩ BENEDICTION

☩ POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

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
The Rev. Olivia Stewart-Shoemaker, Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Jason Crow, Holly Crow, Andy Wicks, Becky Gebhart, Abby Schnelker, Dan Blauw, Anna Wicks, readers
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries
Adult Choir under the direction of Paul Boelkins
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music
Brock Shoemaker, sound technician
AJ Arechiga, projectionist/livestream technician
Lois Ripma, organist*

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

The Maddox Family, Nancy McIntyre - Greeters

Edy Borgondy and Tim Breukink – Coffee and Cookies

NEXT WEEK (December 22)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman

Coffee and Cookies:

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

December 29

Dick and Mary Welscott

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



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 Becky Debowski 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)

FAITH FORUM (ADULT ED - 2nd HOUR)

Today we will share our favorite Christmas traditions. We will start in small groups and then invite people to share with the whole group. We will begin at 11:30 am in the youth room and will conclude at 12:15 pm. There is such joy in reliving and sharing cherished memories and traditions with others. Join us for this very special time together!



Haiku verse written recently by a Third member:

*Ordinary Child
Swaddled in Love – Rejected
Yet God Incarnate*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
8:00 pm



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.

CHURCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

Third has partnered with Pine Rest in a church assistance program. Each one of us (and everyone living in the home) has access to many services offered by Pine Rest, including 3 free counseling visits, elder care consultation, real estate consultation, and 100s of webinars on topics related to mental health and wellness. It is all confidential and between only you and the folks at Pine Rest. To learn more about the amazing benefits we all have access to, click the link below and follow the step-by-step instructions for the CAP Orientation Video.

[Click this Link to Learn More about CAP](#) and then from the top left-hand corner of the screen, where it says “This content is for EAP, CAP, and SAP Client members only,” select **Log In**. Then enter **EAP-client** for **BOTH** the username and password as they are case sensitive.

If you would like to make an appointment with Pine Rest, call 1.800.442.0809 (press 1 and follow the prompts). Please remember to say, “I have a CAP with Third Reformed Church.” A licensed counselor will return your call within 60 minutes.

NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY (NECM) FOOD PANTRY

This month we are collecting bottles of shampoo for the Pantry. Thank you to all of you who have already made a donation! Please leave your donation on the a 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. (In January, we will be collecting flour.)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY	Worship Service	10:00 AM
December 15	Children's Worship Offered	
	Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School	11:30 AM
	7/8 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM
	9/12 th Grade Youth Group	5:30 PM
MONDAY	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
December 16		
TUESDAY	Worship Planning Meeting	10:30 AM
December 17	Classis Executive Committee Meeting	11:30 AM
	Staff Christmas Luncheon	11:30 AM
	Third to Serve at Supper House (St. Alphonsus Parish)	4:45 - 6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	Women's Bible Study	9:30 AM
December 18	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
	Christmas Dinner and Hymn Sing	6:00 PM
THURSDAY	Ele's Place Program	5:30 PM
December 19		
SUNDAY	Family Christmas Worship Service	10:00 AM
December 22	"Christmas Cookie Sunday"	



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SUNDAY

Our traditional "Christmas Cookie Sunday" is next week, December 22! Please plan to bring some of your homemade Christmas cookies and goodies to share during our fellowship time following worship, or simply come ready to satisfy your sweet tooth!



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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