
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

December 22, 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

Christmas Carol Medley

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **133**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Augustus and Quirinius -
ancient names that seem odd to today's ears...

characters in an ancient story

that we long to hear.

Nazareth and Bethlehem -
distant towns we know little about...

**places our hearts long for,
because of the One who traveled there.**

We gather together to hear once more,
a story so ancient and yet so current,
so distant and yet so near.

**We come to hear the story
of God coming to us.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

RETELLING OF THE NATIVITY STORY

Children will sing the first verse of every song below; please join in after verse 1

OPENING – SCENE 1

Today in 2024; a small family gathers

SCENE 2

An Angel of the Lord appears to Mary and Joseph

SCENE 3 – The Christmas Story: Luke 2

Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem

CAROL 155

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

An Angel of the Lord appears before the Shepherds

CAROL 170

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

A Savior is Born – the Messiah, Christ the Lord

CAROL 147

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

A great company of heavenly hosts

CAROL 171

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

The shepherds see the baby, and spread word concerning the child

CAROL 146

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

The Wise Men come from the East

CAROL 185

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Jesus is a King for all people and one day every knee will bow before him

CAROL 152

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

CLOSING – SCENE 4

Today in 2024; the true meaning of Christmas

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING 151

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

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
Jennifer Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries
Pam Lockwood, Director of Music
Ivy Haycraft
Brandy Coleman, Melissa VanderLeek, Anna Wicks
7/8th Grade Youth
All Children K-5th Grade
Ava Coleman, Ben VanderLeek
Josie Breukink, sound technician
AJ Arechiga, projectionist/livestream technician*

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman - Greeters
Jim and Karen Vanden Bos – Coffee and Cookies

NEXT WEEK (December 29)

AM Coordinator:

Greeters:

Liturgist:

Coffee and Cookies:

Volunteer Needed

Dick and Mary Welscott

Rob Teitsma

Laura Blauw and Nancy Zwart

UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

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 Tammy Schollaart for caring for our little ones this morning. [Click here to sign up to help on a future Sunday](#)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 8 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 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

TODAY December 22	Family Christmas Worship Service	10:00 AM
MONDAY December 23	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
TUESDAY December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Church Office Closed	8:00 PM
WEDNESDAY December 25	Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	
SUNDAY December 29	Worship Service	10:00 AM

ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON

Our annual soup luncheon is on Sunday, January 12, 2025, following worship and the congregational meeting. Let us know if you plan to come by signing up at the connection center or clicking this link: [Sign up for the Soup Luncheon](#). Please consider bringing a soup, bread and/or dessert to share, or just come ready to warm yourself with some hot soup. There is always enough for everyone!

NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY (NECM)

- Food Pantry

This month of December 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 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.

- Supper House

A huge thank you to Third Church for all the gifts and monetary contributions to NECM for the Christmas dinner. More than 200 gifts and gift cards were donated. Another huge thank you to the over 20 volunteers who helped the large group of 180 guests. Many smiles and lots of joy were evident all evening. Stay tuned for upcoming dates as we move into 2025. -Keith Boeve



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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TAMMY SCHOLLAART

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THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

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