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## The Second Sunday of Advent

Third Reformed Church – Grand Rapids, Michigan

December 8, 2024 10:00 AM

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 *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


*What Child Is This?*

Traditional English

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

Ryan De Korte, Allison Teitsma, Jamie De Korte

*Advent is a time of holy expectation. Of waiting. Of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. And so it is that for the four Sundays before Christmas, we prepare our hearts for the season by recounting and remembering both the prophecies foretold of Christ's coming and the gospel stories of his birth. Each week focuses on one of the different gifts that Jesus' arrival brought us: The gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love.*

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **142**    *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

PERSONENT HODIE

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O come, O come, Emmanuel.  
Come to us in our hurrying and worrying.  
Come to us in our joy and in our grief.  
Come to us in this space where we have gathered  
to be reminded that all light and life are gifts from you.

Together we pray, asking that you will draw our attention  
to places where darkness and sin hold sway,  
both in our own lives, and in your world.

*Time for silent prayer*

Together we pray, asking for your all sufficient grace  
to absolve us of our shortcomings  
and provide hope for the weary world that needs rejoicing.

*Time for silent prayer*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Come to us anew. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HANDBELL CHOIR

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Rowland Prichard

## 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

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him  
Who freed us from our sin  
Who loved us all, and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord  
The Lord almighty God  
Who was and is, and is to come  
Sing holy, holy Lord.*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below  
For Christ is coming, Is coming soon  
For Christ is coming soon.*

*E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come  
And night shall be no more  
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun  
For Christ will be their All!*

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOD'S WORD


Luke 1:68-79 (NT pg. 50)

MESSAGE

*Guiding Our Feet*

The Reverend Jeffrey Petersen

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

 CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **133** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND LONGING

...ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER (*printed inside the hymnal cover*)

✠ CONGREGATIONAL SINGING **134** *The King of Glory Comes*

PROMISED ONE

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Old English

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*

*Ingrid Baird, liturgist*

*Elder Len De Braber*

*Jen Kelly, Director of Children's Ministries*

*Handbell Choir under the direction of Pam Lockwood*

*Adult Choir under the direction of Paul Boelkins*

*Praise Team*

*Walt Lockwood, sound technician*

*Ben Wicks, projectionist/livestream technician*

## THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Bill Davidson - AM Coordinator

Ron and Tammy Schollaart, Joyce Bengelink - Greeters

Jim and Karen Vanden Bos – Coffee and Cookies

### NEXT WEEK (December 15)

AM Coordinator:

Bill Davidson

Greeters:

The Maddox Family, Nancy McIntyre

Liturgist:

Jason Crow

Coffee and Cookies:

Edy Borgondy and Tim Breukink

### UPCOMING GREETER SCHEDULE

December 22

The Plantenga Family, Bryan and Cheryl Hageman

December 29

**Volunteers Needed**

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 Bill and Barb Hamlin 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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)

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND HOT COCOA BAR**

Everyone is invited to return this evening from 5:30 - 7 pm as we gather on the front lawn for a festive light display. We will hang the ornaments we make today during 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour. There will be a hot cocoa bar tonight with all of the toppings and maybe even a bonfire, as well as Christmas music in the background. Join us for this fun event and time of fellowship! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for Advent and to gather with us this evening as we shine Jesus' light on the corner of Michigan Street and Lakeside!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> HOUR i.e. FAITH FORUM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL (Meets 11:30 am – 12 pm)**

All ages will join together today and make ornaments to hang on the Christmas tree that we will light this evening. We want the tree to represent our congregation and have a piece of each of you on it! All supplies will be provided, and you will have an opportunity to rotate ornament stations. Be sure to stay today following worship and join in on the joyful preparations for the coming of our Savior.

## 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](mailto: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.

## HELP US UPDATE BREEZE i.e. OUR ELECTRONIC CHURCH DIRECTORY

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. We are working on adding and updating pictures in Breeze. This will make it much easier for all of us to recognize and reach out to one another! Ron and Tammy Schollaart have been spearheading this effort. Thank you, Ron and Tammy! If you have not already, please reach out to Ron or Tammy so they can get your picture or your family’s picture. Or, simply email Lisa a recent picture you have had taken.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD THIS WEEK?

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TODAY December 8	Worship Service Children's Worship Offered Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School Christmas Tree Lighting and Hot Cocoa 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group 9/12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group	10:00 AM  11:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM
MONDAY December 9	Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes	12:30 PM
TUESDAY December 10	Staff Meeting Worship Planning Meeting	10:30 AM 11:30 AM
WEDNESDAY December 11	Women's Bible Study Senior Neighbors Tai Chi for Arthritis Classes Choir Rehearsal	9:30 AM 12:30 PM 6:30 PM
THURSDAY December 12	Ele's Place Program	5:30 PM
SUNDAY December 15	Worship Service Children's Worship Offered Faith Forum and Children's Sunday School 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group 9/12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group	10:00 AM  11:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### **Wednesday, December 18 - Christmas Dinner from 6 – 7:30 pm**

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 - Christmas Family Service from 10 – 11 am**

Following worship, we continue our tradition of sharing and enjoying homemade Christmas goodies during fellowship time following worship.

### **Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service from 8 – 9 pm**



**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  
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.

#### **NORTH END COMMUNITY MINISTRY**

- **Food Pantry** - This month of December we are collecting **shampoo** for the Pantry. 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 donation table in the long hallway at the entrance to the narthex.
- **Supper House Christmas Dinner** – The preparations are well underway for the Christmas celebration and supper at Supper House on Tuesday, December 17, with volunteers reporting from 4:45 – 6:30 pm. This is a very special event and one we look forward to each year. Thank you to everyone who has already made a monetary donation or donated a new unwrapped gift for someone of any age. There is still time to sign up if you would like to volunteer. Click here to sign up: [Volunteer at the Dinner](#). Or, sign up today at the Connection Center. We will be collecting gifts here at Third until Sunday, December 15.

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



# 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**

### **REV. JEFFREY PETERSEN**

Senior Pastor  
Cell: (616) 240-0690  
[jeffrey@thirdreformedchurchgr.org](mailto:jeffrey@thirdreformedchurchgr.org)

### **REV. OLIVIA STEWART-SHOEMAKER**

Pastor of Spiritual Formation  
Cell: (317) 318-4175  
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### **JEN KELLY**

Director of Children’s Ministries  
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### **PAM LOCKWOOD**

Director of Music  
Home: (616) 364-8489  
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### **LISA ROSKIEWICZ**

Administrative Coordinator  
Cell: (616) 262-7037  
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### **TAMMY SCHOLLAART**

Kids Hope Director  
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### **THIRD REFORMED CHURCH**

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