

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2007

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

For Advent

Benoit

INTROIT

words and music by Marty Haugen

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born. Behold! the child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

VOTUM

SENTENCES (*responsively*)

This is the season of holy waiting.

**We wait for the day when swords
are transformed into plowshares.**

We watch for the day when the ways of war
are exchanged for the ways of peace.

We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.

Come let us walk in the light of God!

SALUTATION

+*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Tune: TRURO

*PRAYER (*responsively*)

In anticipation we gather.

With expectation we wait.

We gather to watch for the coming of the good news
into our world and into our lives.

We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.

O God, open the doors to our hearts,
that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus.

**O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing,
overwhelm us with so much wonder
that words of praise spring forth from our lips!**

In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.

Let our praises rise up to the heavens!

Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!

Let us gather together all our dreams

and lives to worship our God! Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**God who is with us, and God who is on the way,
we confess that we do not wait or watch for you.**

Works of darkness encumber and distract us.

**Petty jealousies, hard quarrels, ambitions
rooted in selfish desires – they command our attention.**

We have ceased to hope for peace

and harmony among the nations

or for security apart from the defenses we construct.

We hear your promises, Lord, but dare not trust them.

God of power and love,

awaken us to hope and fit us for your coming,

that we may watch for you with confidence and joy.

RESPONSE *Sing! A New Creation 68*

Your Mercy Flows

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (*responsively*)

The good news of this Advent season
is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**Thanks be to the Advent God,
who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (11:00) words and music by Dosia Carlson

People in darkness are looking for light. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight. Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of love.

words and music by Christopher Walker

Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.

Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon!

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.

Change your lives, he's coming.

The one who is the light of the world is coming.

change your lives, he's coming. The reign of God is near!

Alleluia, alleluia! The reign of God is near.

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR WORSHIP CENTER

THE PROCLAMATION IN WORD AND SACRAMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 24:36-44

p. 27

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Keep Awake!"

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 17*

Philipp Nicolai, harmonized by J.S. Bach

—Philipp Nicolai, translated by Carl P. Daw, Jr.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*in unison*)

**In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem
to become one with us.**

**In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.**

**In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary
to bear away our sin.**

**In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden
to defeat death's power over us.**

**In love you ascended beyond the clouds
to be our reigning Lord.**

**You came to love us so that we need never feel
unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(congregation may exchange the Peace)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

SIGNING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY In Dulci Jubilo Bach

*DOXOLOGY *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 592

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

COMMUNION PRAYER *Sing! A New Creation* 250

COMMUNION

(You will be guided by the elders to the front via the center aisle to receive communion by intinction, taking a piece of bread and dipping into the cup. Please return to your pew via the side aisles.)

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

RESPONSE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 222

(spoken verses only)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Sing! A New Creation* 106

Soon and Very Soon

Tune: SOON AND VERY SOON

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in G Minor Bach

+ Late comers will be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

Worship Leaders: Dr. Richard Bates, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, Justis Cook, liturgists;

Marcia Floding, prayer for illumination; Children's Choir; Mary Van Voorst, director; Matins Choir; Sanctuary Choir; Harley Brown, director; Mike Van Doornik, organist.

TODAY

We welcome all who worship with us and ask visitors and members to sign the Friendship Folders so that we may get to know one another.

Please join us in the Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the worship service.

The poinsettias at the chancel today are given in loving memory of Dr. Henry and Edna Mooi Tenpas and families.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Elly Muiderman and Dee Bechtel will be available to pray with you following today's worship services. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer following the service (located in the south hallway on the main level).

ASSISTING TODAY: Greeters (8:30) – Edgar and Marlene Lampen; (11:00) Alma Holkeboer, Phyllis Graham, Jerry Mount, Ken Riksen, John and Sue Hutchinson; Ushers – Doug, Stacy, Benjamin, Jordan, and Raechel Kamphuis; Deacons – (8:30) Jon Rietberg, John Ruiter; (11:00) Habeeb Awad, Karin Ashcroft, Tom Ten Hoeve, Jeff Beird; Refreshment Servers – Bill and Sarah Unzicker.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Lauren Gras, Jon and Deb Van Duinen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:40-10:40 a.m., nursery care available

3 year olds	nursery	4 & 5 year olds	room 15
Kindergarten & 1 st	room 6	2 nd grade	room 8
3 rd grade	room 9	4 th grade	room 10
5 th grade	room 7	6 th , 7 th , & 8 th grade	room 11

HIGH SCHOOL/ADULT CLASS, 9:40-10:40 a.m., Nooma Video Series, Youth Room.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – “Meeting of Cultures, Meeting of Minds” led by Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas in the chapel. NEXT WEEK: “Christian Understandings of Diversity and Tolerance” led by Kristen Johnson.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Children 4 years through 2nd grade will be ushered from the sanctuary during the worship service to continue worship in the Worship Centers on the lower level.

YOUNG DISCIPLES, for children 3rd-5th grades, will meet during the 8:30 a.m. service.

PERSONAL

Share your prayer concerns by using the prayer request cards found in the Friendship Folders. Place the requests in the offering plate or prayer box at the back of the sanctuary. Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Alma Halko who died November 20.

SYMPATHY is extended to Renske and Wendell Karsen in the death of Renske's brother-in-law, Theo Bouwman, on November 20 in the Netherlands.

SYMPATHY is extended to Phyllis Bruggers in the death of her husband, Glenn, on November 28.

CONGRATULATIONS to Max and Esther De Pree whose 61st wedding anniversary is Friday.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Out of Town – Jo Rediger, 2304 Versailles Ct., Rockwall, TX 75032; Elisabeth Ten Zythoff, 1750 W. Bennett St. #3A, Springfield, MO 65807; Home – Jan Bosch, Gerry Tillema. In the Military – Christine Loman, David Mummert, Tom Piaget, Mark South, Joel Zuidema.

GENERAL ITEMS

BLOOD PRESSURE: You will have the chance to have your blood pressure checked next Sunday, December 9 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Register for AssessMe at www.assessme.org/1398.aspx

THANK YOU THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered last week to bake the December cakes. To give the Circles a break – we are looking for more cake bakers for January. There are 47 cakes that need to be baked in January. Please see Sandy Stielstra or sign up in the Gathering Place.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING next Sunday, December 9. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. to get organized. Groups will leave to carol at 5:30 p.m. and return to the church at 6:30 p.m. for a pizza dinner. Nursery will be provided.

If you did not pick up your information packet last Sunday, please do so today. The packets with your name on it are on a table by the North windows in the Gathering Place.

YOUNG HEARTS: The next Young Hearts luncheon will be Thursday, December 13 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Price for the lunch is \$4.00. The program “Christmas Around the World” will be presented by the International Students at Western Theological Seminary. Please make your reservations by calling the church office at 392-1459 by Monday, December 10. Transportation is available on request.

VALET PARKING: During the winter months this service will be offered to those with physical limitations and for parents of small children from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. Drive up to the covered entrance off the parking lot, and you will be assisted to the door. Stay inside the door until your keys are returned to you. After the service, return to the main door and give your keys to the attendant. If you have any questions please call the church office.

FLOWER CALENDAR: If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of someone for the Sunday worship services, please sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board near the West entrance or call the church office at 392-1459.

CHOIR CAROL SERVICE: This year’s choir carol service will be on Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. The theme for the service is “Carols from Around the World.” The choirs will be accompanied by organ, flute, oboe, violin, and percussion. Nursery and bus will be provided. There will be a reception following the service.

SNOWBIRDS: Please call the church office, 392-1459, and let us know what your winter address is so we can keep in touch with you while you’re gone.

BLOOD DRIVE: Sign up begins today for the Blood Drive on Monday, December 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you are willing to make cookies or bars please see Esther Vande Bunte today in the Gathering Place.

GIFT OF GOD’S LOVE: This year we are offering two opportunities to thank or honor a loved one, friend, teacher, or leader through “A Gift of God’s Love.” There will be a table in the Gathering Place today to get more information.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please pick up an Advent devotional today for your family to use during Advent.

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

111 West 13th Street, Holland, Michigan 49423

(616) 392-1459 - Fax (616) 392-8412

E-mail: [HYPERLINK "mailto:trc@freenet.macatawa.org" trc@macatawa.org](mailto:trc@freenet.macatawa.org)

Website: www.trcholland.org

CareLine: (616) 393-5574 or (800) 937-5774

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, & Chapel
wired with an Induction Hearing Loop.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

THE CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor	Richard Bates
Minister of Congregational Life	Kama Jongerius
Calling Pastor	William Unzicker*
Coordinator of Congregational Care	Delores Bechtel*
Minister of Music	Linda K. Strouf*
Director of Children's Ministries	Marcia Floding*
Youth Director	Nate Schipper
Young Disciples Director	Michelle Millen*
Seminary Intern	Mark Reynoso*
Children's Choir Director	Mary Van Voorst*
Secretaries	Kristen Beckner, Carol Ter Beek*
Custodian	Mark Faga
Kitchen Coordinator	Judy Bosch*
Treasurer/Interim Administrator	Harvey J. Buter*
Recording Treasurer	Delwyn Van Dyke*
Archivist/Historian	Elton J. Bruins*
Minister of Music Emeritus	Roger J. Rietberg

*indicates part time staff

MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT

Jaime Amaro, Monterrey, Mexico
Martha Amaro, Monterrey, Mexico
Roger De Young, Mission Stewardship and Coordinator
for Mexico and Venezuela
Lance and Elizabeth Edwards, Mozambique
James and Sharon Heneveld, Chiapas, Mexico
Wayne and Miho Jansen, Japan
Rowland, Jr. and Jane Van Es, Kenya
Betty Voskuil, Coordinator, Reformed Church World Service and
Diaconal Ministries
Japanese Ministry in West Michigan

THE CONSISTORY

PROGRAM ELDERS

Irwin Brink
Lorna Cook
Deb DuMez
Greg Dykhouse

Mark Hiskes
Kristen Johnson
John Nordstrom
Ed Stielstra

PARISH ELDERS

Kathy Miedema (1)
Renske Karsen (2)
Charles Hunt (3)
Marilyn Norman (4)
Sarah Unzicker (5)
Katherine Hunsberger (6)
Anna Ritsema (7)
Sherrill Ball (8)
Jan Benningfield (9)
Mike Van Doornik (10)
Roger Rietberg (11)
Wayne Westenbroek (12)

Lynne Caskey (13)
Milly Ten Brink (14)
Bill Doezema (15)
Scott Millen (16)
Jeff Maatman (17)
John Hoekstra (18)
Elaine Tanis (19)
(20)
Phyllis Brown (21)
Barb Moreau (22)
Lucille Schroeder (23)
Kate Bolt (24)

DEACONS

Karin Ashcroft
Habeeb Awad
Jeff Beird
Lynne Bonnette
Steve Bulthuis
Rick Frens
Laura Halsey
Linda Jacobs

Kim McDonough
Jay Mosterd
Jon Rietberg
John Ruiten
Bekah Schipper
Tom Ten Hoeve
Jeff Voskuil