

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*December 9, 2007*

*8:30 and 11:00 a.m.*

**THE APPROACH TO GOD**

PRELUDE Hymn for the Coming of the Lord Samuel Scheidt

INTROIT Cameroon traditional, tr. and arr. by John Bell  
He came down that we may have hope.  
*Hallelujah forevermore.*

VOTUM

SENTENCES (*responsively*)

Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love.  
**Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.**  
**Let your steadfast love, O LORD,**  
**be upon us, even as we hope in you.**  
—Psalm 33:21, 22

SALUTATION

+\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Sing! A New Creation* 104  
Blessed Be the God of Israel Tune: FOREST GREEN

\*PRAYER (*in unison*)

**Lord God Almighty,  
King of glory and love eternal,  
you are worthy at all times  
to receive adoration, praise, and blessing;  
we praise you now for sending your Son,  
our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
for whom our hearts wait, and to whom,  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
be honor and dominion, now and for ever. Amen.**

\*PEACE

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

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**God of righteousness and justice; before you, who can stand!  
We, whose lives are comfortable, who turn our eyes from the poor  
and deny our debt to them – we are the ones who must repent.  
From greed, violence, and systems that oppress, Lord, help us to turn.  
Wash us, that we may be clean.  
Tend to us, that we may bear fruit worthy of your kingdom.  
Fill us with confident hope in your coming.  
Inspire us to prepare your way.**

RESPONSE *Sing! A New Creation* 68 Your Mercy Flows

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE  
CHILDREN LEAVE FOR WORSHIP CENTER

## THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

p. 640

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 3:1-12

p. 2

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS'

SERMON

“Hope!”

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

ANTHEM

David Hugh Jones

Amid the snows, a rose!  
This, legends say, marked the first Christmas Day.  
Hard winter earth relented:  
Love was born amid the bitter cold and storm,  
Christ of our hearts, our Rose!  
This be the way, we know this for Thy day  
Our prisoned souls released:  
Love born new, and dream of peace on earth come true.  
—Edwin O. Kennedy

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

PRESENTATION

\*VOWS

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed (*in unison*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

BLESSING AND PRAYER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

SIGNING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Carol of the Birds Alice Jordan  
\*DOXOLOGY *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 592  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 205

All Hail to God's Anointed

Tune: ROCKPORT

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may his glory fill the whole earth.

**Amen and Amen.**

—Psalm 72:18-19, NRSV

POSTLUDE The Advent Chorale Felix Mendelssohn

+ L a t e c o m e r s w i l l b e s e a t e d .

\*Those who are able may stand.

*Worship Leaders: Dr. Richard Bates, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; Jeanette Beagley, prayer for illumination; Matins Choir; Sanctuary Choir; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.*

### **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.

We joyfully welcome the following members into our Christian faith community this morning: Robert and Edna Gallup, Harold and Nancy Gazan, Andrew Le, Katherine Stack, and Urs, Martha, Benjamin, and Ellie-Rose Waldvogel. Andrew Le will also be receiving the sacrament of baptism. There will be a receiving line after the worship service where you may greet these new members.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Max and Esther De Pree 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) – Al and Jane Osman, Bruce Plasman; (11:00) Bill and Kirsten Paarlberg, John and Eileen Nordstrom, Steve and Karen Palmateer; Ushers – Chris and Sarah Clark; Deacons – (8:30) Laura Halsey, Jeff Beird; (11:00) Linda Jacobs, Rick Frens, Kim McDonough, Steve Bulthuis; Refreshment Servers – Jon and Phyllis Rietberg.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Mark and Lynne Bonnette, Cindy Hiskes.

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

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

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – “Christian Understandings of Diversity and Tolerance” led by Kristen Johnson in the chapel. There will be no Adult Education Class next week so you can attend the Children's Christmas Program.

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

### **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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ron and Sunny Boeve whose 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary was Friday, December 7.

CONGRATULATIONS to Walter and Carol Seidelman whose 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary is Friday.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Holland Hospital – Lynne Ihrman. Edie Lampen has returned home from the hospital and Henrietta Bonnette has returned home from The Inn. Arlene Frego has moved from the hospital to Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Community. Lakeside Vista – Bob Brinks, Tina Greve, Rosey Maatman; Heartland of Holland – Elizabeth Bennett, Bernice Lievens. In the Military – Christine Loman, David Mummert, Tom Piaget, Mark South, Joel Zuidema.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

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.

### **GENERAL ITEMS**

BLOOD PRESSURE: You will have the chance to have your blood pressure checked this morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

Register for AssessMe at [www.assessme.org/1398.aspx](http://www.assessme.org/1398.aspx)

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: Tomorrow is the last day to make your reservations for the Young Hearts luncheon

on 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. 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.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE:** For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. A Blue Christmas service provides sacred space to acknowledge experiences of sorrow and grief in the context of worship. On Tuesday, evening, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel, a Blue Christmas service will be led by Matt Floding and students from Western Theological Seminary. This might be, for you, an important part of your Advent journey.

**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.

Everyone is invited to the annual Children's Christmas Program next Sunday, December 16 at 9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program includes the world premiere of the original musical, "We're Off to See the Savior" and performances by the Children's Choir and the Middle School class. There will be a reception following the program. Please sign up today in the Gathering Place if you can bring a finger food for this event.

**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.

On Monday evening, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Women's Ministries of Third will present the true story of our beloved Christmas carol, "Silent Night." We invite you to come with us to Oberndorf, Austria. The play cast will be joined by dancers, readers, and singers.

**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 continues 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, from the literature table in the Gathering Place, for your family to use during Advent.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** There will be a Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. A nursery and bus will be provided and a reception will be held following the service.

### **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"](mailto:trc@freenet.macatawa.org) trc@macatawa.org

Website: [www.trcholland.org](http://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 Ruiter  
Bekah Schipper  
Tom Ten Hoeve  
Jeff Voskuil