

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2007

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

Jan Bender

INTROIT

Jacques Berthier

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!
—The Community of Taizé

VOTUM

SENTENCES (*responsively*)

This is the season of holy waiting.
We wait for the time when the desert will bloom abundantly.
We watch for the day when all God's people
will come together with singing.
We wait while the dawning light appears on the horizon.
Come, let us walk in the light of God!

SALUTATION

+*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Songs & Spiritual Songs* 8
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Tune: TRURO

*PRAYER (*in unison*)

**God of Israel,
with expectant hearts
we your people await Christ's coming.
As once he came in humility,
so now may he come in glory,
that he may make all things perfect
in your everlasting kingdom.
For he is Lord for ever and 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*)

**Merciful God,
always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of the season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now in the quiet of our hearts, we ask
you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR WORSHIP CENTER

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Sing! A New Creation 76 (sung twice)*

**Come, Light, Light of God, o'erwhelm all creation.
Enlighten our hearts; let your light dwell with us.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35

p. 663

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Michael Praetorius

My soul doth magnify the Lord, Organ interludes by Roland E. Martin

In God, my Savior shall rejoice;

He raises me from low estate, and gives a hundred blessings voice.

All generations call me blest, yes, God has done great things for me;

And Holy is his righteous name, to those who know his majesty.

His arm is strong to all who fear, the proud he scatters in their greed;

He casts the mighty from their thrones, and lifts the lowly from their need.

He fills the hungry with good things, the rich he sends away in shame;

The humble he has lifted high, to magnify his Holy Name.

Remembering His mercy sure, his servants, Israel, embrace;

As prophesied in days of old, to Abraham and all his race.

All Glory to the Father God, and to the Son, whom we adore;

The Holy Spirit, three in one, forever, and forever more.

—paraphrased by Alice Carpenter

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Wait!”

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*HYMN *Sing! A New Creation 91*

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Tune: REJOICE REJOICE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*responsively*)

God holds this world in sovereign love.

He kept his promise, sending Jesus into the world.

He poured out his Spirit and broadcast his news

that sinners who repent and believe in Jesus

can live and breathe and move again

as members of the family of God.

We rejoice in the goodness of God,

renounce the works of darkness,

and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,

and set free for joyful praise,

we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world.

With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,

we expect the Day of the Lord.

And we are confident

that the light that shines in the present darkness

**will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**
—*Our World Belongs to God*, st. 5-6

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

SIGNING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Noël sur les Flûtes Louis Claude Dáquin

*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 *Sing! A New Creation* 101 (verses 1,2,3)

God of Justice Ever Flowing

Tune: HOLY MANNA

*BLESSING

In accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new earth,
where righteousness is at home.
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things,
strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;
and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

—2 Peter 3:13-15, NRSV

God's grace and peace be with you now and always.

Amen and Amen!

POSTLUDE Hosanna Now Through Advent Donald Busarow

+Latecomers will be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

Worship Leaders: Dr. Richard Bates, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; 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.

The plants shown on the “rose window” this Sunday grow in the Middle East and relate to Christ’s birth: the white Star of Bethlehem, the spiky myrrh bush, the myrrh plant with red flowers, the desert narcissus, the frankincense tree, and the rose of Sharon.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Wendell and Renske Karsen 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) – Carl and Carolyn Stegink; (11:00) Scott, Heather, Anna, Ethan, and Jane Wolterink, Brad and Eleanor Warren, Roger and Evelyn Rietberg; Ushers – John and Marilyn Tammi; Deacons – (8:30) Rick Frens, Jeff Beird; (11:00) Jeff Voskuil, Bekah Schipper, Tom Ten Hoeve, Lynne Bonnette; Refreshment Servers – Joe and Heather Stam.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Jane Eppard.

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.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

“We’re Off to See the Savior”

There will be a reception following the program.

CHOIR CAROL SERVICE

7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

“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.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Matins Choir
9:40 a.m. Children’s Christmas Program
4:15 p.m. Handbell Choir
5:00 p.m. Senior High Christmas Party at Fagas

(819 E. 8th St.)

7:30 p.m. Choir Carol Service

MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Women’s Ministries Program

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m.	Staff
9:30 a.m.	Moms of Young Children
7:00 p.m.	Consistory
8:15 p.m.	Elders
8:15 p.m.	Deacons

WEDNESDAY

6:15 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Saints
8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayers
6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
7:00 p.m.	Choir Dinner

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 Don and Arlene Frego in the death of their sister-in-law, Bonnie Vander Meulen, on December 6.

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Van Zanden whose 95th birthday is Monday.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Resthaven Care Center – Arnolda Otting, Helen Van Zanden, Ada Ver Hulst; Maple Woods – Joe Otting, Vesta Speet; Oak Crest Manors – Alma Kuiper. In the Military – Christine Loman, David Mummert, Tom Piaget, Mark South, Joel Zuidema.

GENERAL ITEMS

Register for AssessMe at 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.

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.

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.

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES: On Sunday, December 23 there will be two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. On Sunday, December 30, there will be only one worship service at 11:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on either day.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25 and Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday, January 1, 2008. Serving will begin at 9:30 a.m. and all contributions go to support mission projects. There will also be a short worship service led by the Sunrise Saints. Start out the new year with your church family and friends.

BLIZZARD POLICY: In the event of a major storm in which travel is hazardous or impossible, the 8:30 a.m. service and Sunday School will be cancelled, but there will be a walk-in service at 11:00 a.m. The church will inform WHTC, WJQ, and the TV stations as early in the morning as possible of such a change in our schedule.

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

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

Kim McDonough

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

Jay Mosterd
Jon Rietberg
John Ruiter
Bekah Schipper
Tom Ten Hoeve
Jeff Voskuil