

Let the valleys be lifted up!

**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,
and lift from us depression and worry.**

(silent prayer)

Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the mountains be leveled off!

End our pride and take away our arrogance:

save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.

(silent prayer)

Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the crooked be made straight!

**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

(silent prayer)

Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.

Let the rough be made smooth!

Help us grow in understanding,

and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.

(silent prayer)

Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.

Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**Redeem your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**

(silent prayer)

Keep us humble and faithful.

Save us and sanctify us, O God.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSE *Sing! A New Creation* 103

Come, Lord Jesus

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP CENTERS

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

p. 636

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

p. 1

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

SERMON

“Look!”

Tune: ST. LOUIS

***BLESSING**

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body
be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Amen and Amen!

POSTLUDE Puer nobis nasetiur Nicholas le Bègue
+ Latecomers will be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

Worship Leaders: Dr. Richard Bates, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; Etta Hesselink, prayer for illumination; Handbell Choir; 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.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Carl and Lucille Schroeder 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) – Ed and Sandy Stielstra; (11:00) Don and Lois Van Lare, Scott, Stacey, Madelaine, and Savannah Van Dyke, Tom and Muriel Vander Kuy; Ushers – Fred and Kathy Van Tubbergen; Deacons – (8:30) Laura Halsey, Steve Bulthuis; (11:00) Jay Mosterd, Habeeb Awad, Karin Ashcroft, Kim McDonough; Refreshment Servers – Bob and Nick Van Voorst.

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

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.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Matins Choir

MONDAY

Church Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

TUESDAY

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Assembly

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

5:00 p.m. Monday in the sanctuary

Bus and nursery will be provided.

Everyone is invited to a reception following the 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 Sharon and Tom Arendshorst in the death of Sharon's father, Clifford Nelson, on December 11 in Atlanta, Georgia.

SYMPATHY is extended to Sue and John Hutchinson in the death of Sue's brother, Joel Pott, on December 12 in Detroit.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gerald Tillema whose 90th birthday was December 18.

CONGRATULATIONS to Roger and Evelyn Rietberg whose 52nd wedding anniversary is today.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: The Laurels of Hudsonville – John De Kraker; The Inn – Jantina Holleman, Barbara Lampen, Marjorie Rottschafer, Dorothy Sheets, Crystal Teague, Joyce Vander Well. In the Military – Christine Loman, David Mummert, Tom Piaget, Mark South, Joel Zuidema.

GENERAL ITEMS

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

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 SERVICE: On Sunday, December 30, there will be only one worship service at 11:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on that 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.

All those planning to attend Mark Hiskes's Adult Education class on Peter De Vries' s novel, "The Blood of the Lamb," are reminded to read the novel prior to the classes on January 13 and 20.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Start out the new year with your church family and friends at the annual Pancake Breakfast on January 1, 2008. Serving will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be a short worship service led by the Sunrise Saints. All contributions will go to support mission projects.

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.

If you plan to miss or have missed worship on Sunday, you can view the bulletin and announcements from our website. Go to www.trcholland.org, click on "worship." Then click on the date of the bulletin you wish to see.

INQUIRER'S CLASS: A four week Inquirer's Class will begin Sunday, January 6 at 9:40 a.m. in the office conference room. This will be a series of informational sessions for persons interested in learning more about Third Reformed Church and possible membership. We will review the basic history and teachings of the Reformed church, the particular history, organization, and mission of Third Reformed Church, and the procedures for persons becoming members. If you would like to participate in these sessions, it would be helpful to me if you inform the secretary in the church office, 392-1459 or trc@macatawa.org, so I can prepare enough materials for everyone.

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
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