

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 30, 2007

11:00 a.m.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE Masters in this Hall arr. by Lloyd Larson

VOTUM

SENTENCES (*responsively*)

All God's people—

Boys and girls, women, men:

Come and worship!

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

Come and worship! Come and worship!

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

Come and worship,

come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

SALUTATION

+*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Songs & Spiritual Songs* 46

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Tune: PERSONENT HODIE

*PRAYER (*in unison*)

On this day, we join the angels in praising you, O Lord,

for you came to bring us peace, love and salvation.

Immanuel, we invite you to draw near and dwell with us.

Surround us with your tender, caring presence,

that what we say and do in worship

might prepare us to live forever with you in heaven.

In your strong and loving name we pray. 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 love,

all year long we pursue power and money,

yet you come in weakness.

All season long we covet great material gifts,

when you alone offer what is lasting.

Through the work of this Lord Jesus,

who comes among us full of grace and truth,

forgive us, heal us, correct us.

Then open our lips,

that we may sing your praise with the angels,

and remake our lives,

that we may witness to your transforming love.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSE *Sing! A New Creation* 103

Come, Lord Jesus

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE

CHILDREN'S GATHERING
LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE
DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP CENTERS

THE WORD OF GOD
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 148 (*in unison*) p. 582
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:13-23 p. 2
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 37*
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Tune: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

SERMON "Messages from God"

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*responsively*)
In the beginning was the Word,
and the word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
**What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**
The light shines in the darkness,
and darkness did not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
**He was in the world, and the world
came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.**
He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
**who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh
or of the will of man, but of God.**
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
**and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

—John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

*RESPONSE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 579* Gloria Patri

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP

SIGNING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY Away in a Manger arr. by Lloyd Larson

SOLO traditional melody, harmonized by M. Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung;
it came a flow'ret bright,
amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior when half spend was the night.

O flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor our darkness eve'rywhere.
Human, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us and share our ev'ry load.

*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* 59

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Tune: CHRISTMAS

*BLESSING

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.

May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

O Lord, give us peace.

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

May his birth among us renew your hope.

O Lord, give us hope.

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

O Lord, give us joy.

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

GENERAL ITEMS

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed 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.

Missing since the Choir Carol Service on December 16, a man's tan trench coat. Please return to the coat rack across from the office.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES begin again next Sunday, January 6 at 9:40 a.m. in the chapel. Jerry Van Wyngarden will present "The Geography of the Middle East as it Relates to the Three Major Religions Originating in this Area."

TASC: TASC will begin again on Wednesday, January 9 with dinner at 5:50 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Classes for all ages begin at 6:45 p.m. Adult Education offerings are: Sanctuary Choir, Knitting Ministry, "Key Passages in Luke" led by Bob Van Voorst.

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.

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
Recording Treasurer
Archivist/Historian
Minister of Music Emeritus
*indicates part time staff

Harvey J. Buter*
Delwyn Van Dyke*
Elton J. Bruins*
Roger J. Rietberg

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

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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

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