

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 14, 2008

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*Let the first note of the prelude be a call for  
personal meditation in preparation for worship.*

**GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

PRELUDE Rejoice, Rejoice Believers setting by Harvey E. Hahn

OPENING WORDS (*responsively*)

It's almost time for Emmanuel.

**Time for renewed wonder and awe.**

Time for gratitude and joy.

**Time for celebration.**

Time for loving.

**Time for adoration.**

God's messenger said to Joseph in a dream: "Do not hesitate to marry Mary, for that which is conceived in her is the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**His name shall be called Emmanuel,  
which means God-with-us.**

The growing light reminds us that God is indeed with us! As the Light comes near, let us also draw near to the Light.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG *Sing! A New Creation* 96

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!**

SALUTATION Romans 1:1-7

+\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs* 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)*

**WELCOMING CHILDREN INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Matthew 22:37-40

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**We confess to you, our God, and before one another  
that we have sinned greatly, in thought, word, and deed.**

**We have offended your holiness.**

**We have failed to love our neighbor.**

**We have followed the devices of our own hearts  
and have spurned the promptings of your Spirit.**

**Through our own fault, we have deserved your judgment.**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
who takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.**

RESPONSE *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 1

Tune: STUTTGART

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in Thee.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Genesis 17:7

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

WORDS OF WELCOME

**Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ.  
Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news,  
For we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia.**

BAPTISM SONG

Josh Schicker

May love find ways to surprise you  
May its colors always amaze you  
May you never find the words  
To confine love to a verse  
May you be...

May the light of life shine about you  
May its beams always support you  
Like a roof over your head  
Where many can find rest  
May you be love

With those who walk in darkness may you be there  
And where there is blessing all around  
May you learn how to share

Where there is sorrow may you bring peace  
Where there is silent apathy  
May you be the one to speak

May your days on earth grow full and  
May the sweet smell of justice linger  
Like a garden-picked bouquet  
And may all who know you say  
"You are love"

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP CENTERS (*sung*)

Tune: VENITE ADORAMUS

**An angel came to Joseph and did say,  
"Do right, for God's own Son is on the way.  
Get ready for his coming. You must start  
To make a place for Jesus in your heart."  
Mystery and wonder, hope and joy,  
Join the pieces of our Christmas story.**

—Text by Jane Cronkite

**LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 5:14-23

p. 634

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* 309

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

SERMON

"The Holy-Filled Life: Joseph"

(The Life of Holiness)

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*responsively*)

How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

**He is our mediator,  
and with his innocence and perfect holiness  
he removes from God's sight  
my sin – mine since I was conceived.**

\*SONG OF AFFIRMATION *Sing! A New Creation* 98                      Make Way

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

OFFERTORY

Donald Busarow

He comes to us as one unknown,  
A breath unseen, unheard;  
As though within a heart of stone,  
Or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
A pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie  
And thoughts of day depart;  
Half-seen upon the inward eye,  
A falling star across the sky  
Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,  
The ocean's fume and foam;  
Yet small and still upon the breeze,  
A wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
A voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came  
By flesh and blood and birth;  
To bear within our mortal frame  
A life, a death, a saving name,  
For every child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
Believed, obeyed, adored:  
The Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
As yet unseen, but not unknown,  
Our Savior and our Lord.  
—Timothy Dudley-Smith

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

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYERS 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.**

## PREPARING FOR SERVICE IN THE WORLD

CALL TO NEW OBEDIENCE James 1:27

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 5*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Tune: PICARDY

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

setting by Jan Bender

+Latecomers will be seated.

\*Those who are able may stand.

*Worship Leaders: Rev. Kent Fry, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, Rev. Gretchen Schoon Tanis, Lindsey De Kruif, liturgists; Lindsey De Kruif, prayer for illumination; Steve Bulthuis family (8:30), Kurt Knowles family (11:00), candle lighters; 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.

Receiving the sacrament of baptism this morning are Christian Marshall, son of Trina and Benjamin Lichtenwalner; Makayla Sue, daughter of Kristin Ver Hulst and Ken Slater; and Harper Lain, daughter of Joel and Kathy Schoon Tanis. We welcome them with joy into our covenant community.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Peg Van Grouw and Alan Beagley 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) – Bruce Plasman, Edgar Lampen; (11:00) – Kathy Foster, Diann Koeman, Sherrill and Norm Ball, Norm and Ellen Rieck; Ushers – Carol Cox, Lorene Duin; Deacons – (8:30)Jon Rietberg, Rick Frens; (11:00) Bekah Schipper, Jay Mosterd, Jeff Voskuil, Jim

Hensley; Refreshment Servers – Doug, Stacy, Jordan, and Raechel Kamphuis.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Karin Ashcroft, Katie Kotowski.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, 9:40-10:40 a.m., No Sunday School this Sunday. Plan to attend the Children's Christmas Program. The class originally scheduled for December 21 "The Hymns and Translations of John Mason Neale" led by Roger Rietberg will be held on January 4.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"Live from Bethlehem..."

9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Reception following

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. to form groups

5:30-6:30 p.m. – Caroling

6:30 p.m. – return to church for pizza dinner

Nursery provided during caroling.

**THIS WEEK**

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Matins Choir  
9:40 a.m. Children's Christmas Program  
12:15 p.m. Handbell Choir  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling  
6:30 p.m. Pizza Dinner

MONDAY

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

6:00 p.m. Miriam Circle Potluck at Sarah Unzicker's  
(821 Claremont Ct.)  
7:30 p.m. Martha Circle at Betty Balk's  
(10962 Cranberry Ct. – Zeeland)

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
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. Wednesday Morning Prayers  
5:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir  
7:00 p.m. Choir Dinner

FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. Play Group  
10:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group at Jane Dykstra's  
(349 Wildwood Dr.)

**PERSONAL**

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

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Holland Hospital – Sandra Alspach, Marilyn Franken, Eileen Mooney. Ron South has returned home from the hospital. Helen Walvoord has moved to The Inn. Hospice House – Dick Walvoord. Pray for – Bob Brinks, Laura-Lee Pike. Resthaven Care Center – Alma Kuiper, Arnolda Otting, Joe Otting, Helen Van Zanden, Ada Ver Hulst; Maple Woods – Vesta Speet. In the

Military – Mark South, Christine Loman, Tom Piaget.

### **CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY**

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: Please pick up an Advent devotional today from the literature table in the Gathering Place, for you to use during Advent.

### **GENERAL ITEMS**

THE 2009 INFORMATION PACKETS, including your 2009 offering envelopes, have been consolidated on one table at the North windows of the Gathering Place. The large envelopes with your name on it are in alphabetical order. Save us \$4.00 per pack by picking yours up today.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The January newsletter will be assembled on Tuesday, December 30. The deadline for articles for the *Third Generation* remains Saturday, December 15. Due to the holidays if submissions for the newsletter are not received by Monday, November 15 they will not be included.

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.

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS with the choir of Third Reformed Church on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. The Children's Choir, the Youth Choir, the Handbell Choir and the combined Matins/Sanctuary Choir will all participate. There will be a reception following the service. Bus and nursery will be available.

VALET PARKING: During the winter months this service will be offered to those with physical limitations 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE: There will be a Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. Nursery will be provided.

WORSHIP SERVICES: On Sunday, December 21 there will be two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. On Sunday, December 28, 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 at noon on Wednesdays, December 24 and 31 and closed on Thursdays and Friday, December 25, 26, January 1 and 2.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Pancake Breakfast on Thursday, January 1, 2009. 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.

NEEDED: We would like to update our list of people who are willing to provide transportation locally. If you are able to help with this need please contact Dee Bechtel at 392-1459.

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 WOODTV as early in the morning as possible of such a change in our schedule.

### **THIRD REFORMED CHURCH**

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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*

