

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 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 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People setting by Johann Pachelbel

OPENING WORDS (*responsively*)

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**The shepherds were the first to hear
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—
the good news of great joy for all the people.**

Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them
about this child,

and all who heard it were amazed.

We have also heard this wonderful news.

**We welcomed the message with the joy
given by the Holy Spirit.**

Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.

—based on Luke 2:10, 17-18; I Thessalonians 1:6; I Peter 1:8, NIV

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

+*HYMN OF PRAISE *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs* 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Tune: GLORIA

*SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

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

(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

OFFERING CONFESSION OF SIN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

God of miracles,

**There are times we doubt the truth
of your coming into Bethlehem's manger.**

**Sometimes when you appear to us,
we question the legitimacy of the experience.**

Often, we are blind to your presence.

Let us see your miracles around us;

Let us exalt in them;

Let us share them with others.

In Jesus' name, 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.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

Tune: VENITE ADORAMUS

**The angels came to shepherds and did say,
"Jump up, for God's own Son is on the way.
Hurry now to see him. 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 61: 1-4, 8-11

p. 691

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Sing! A New Creation* 103

Come, Lord Jesus

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

p. 58

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 59

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vs. 1,2 & 6)

Tune: CHRISTMAS

SERMON

"The Spirit-Filled Life: Shepherds"

(The Charismatic Life)

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*responsively*)

What does it mean that he "was conceived
by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary?"

**That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains
true and eternal God,
took to himself,
through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
so that he might become David's true descendant,
like his brothers in every way except for sin.**

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 3 & 4)

Tune: ST. LOUIS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

OFFERTORY

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Glory to God in the highest glory.

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

*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 Ephesians 5:18b-19

*HYMN OF DEDICATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 29*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Tune: GO TELL IT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prepare the Royal Highway setting by G. Winston Cassler

+Latecomers will be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Kent Fry, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; Gloria South, 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.

FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and others, Bill and Sarah Unzicker 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 Lucille Schroeder; (11:00) – Joe, Jane, Jonah, and Timothy Vandermeer, Muriel and Tom Vander Kuy, Ed and Sandy Stielstra; Ushers – Chris, Lorna, Simon, and Justis Cook; Deacons – (8:30) Jon Bechtel, Steve Bulthuis; (11:00) Tom Ten Hoeve, Bekah Schipper, Rick Frens, Lynne Bonnette; Refreshment Servers – Mike and Beverley Rannow.

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Rick and Meg Frens, Mary Boersen.

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.

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
with the choirs of Third Reformed Church
6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

The Children's Choir, the Youth Choir, the Handbell Choir and the combined Sanctuary Choir will all participate.

There will be a reception following the service.
Bus and nursery will be available.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Matins Choir
10:00 a.m. Handbell Choir
6:00 p.m. Choir Carol Service

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY

6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers
12:00 p.m. Church Office Closed
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY

Church Office Closed

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: Hospice House – Dick Walvoord. Pray for – Bob Brinks, Laura-Lee Pike. The Inn – Jantina Holleman, Barbara Lampen, Carlyle Neckers, Marjorie Rottschafer, Dorothy Sheets, Crystal Teague. In the Military – Mark South, Christine Loman, Tom Piaget.

GENERAL ITEMS

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.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed at noon on Wednesdays, December 24 and 31 and closed on Thursdays and Fridays, 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.

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.

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.

BREAKFAST WITH BABY: Thank you to Christ Memorial and Third Reformed Churches for sharing a wonderful breakfast this month to the 35 families in attendance! Next month, January 10 Trinity and Engedi are in charge of serving. The event starts at 10:00 a.m. at Fourth Reformed Church. If you can help, please come by 9:45 a.m. Our needs this month include a high chair, strollers (not umbrella), misc. baby items, and diapers size newborn to 4. We can also use baby wipes. Thank you again for all your support with providing for this program. We could not minister to this many people without you.

MARRIED COUPLES: It's been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents who are very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at the next Reformed Marriage Encounter Weekend to be held in Holland, February 13-15, 2009. For more information or to register on-line, go to www.reformedme.org or contact Jim and Kathy Molenkamp at 616-538-2749 or michigan_registration@reformedme.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.
Nursery will be provided.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

there will be only **one** service at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School begins again on Sunday, January 4 at 9:40 a.m.

THE CHURCH STAFF

Director of Children's Ministries	Marcia Floding*
Youth Director	Nate Schipper
Young Disciples Director	Michelle Millen*
Children's Choir Director	Mary Van Voorst*
Minister of Music	Linda K. Strouf*
Seminary Interns	Lindsey De Kruijff*, David Ryder*
College Interns	Anna Finger*, Stephanie Fowler*
Calling Pastor	William Unzicker*
Coordinator of Congregational Care	Delores Bechtel*
Treasurer/Interim Administrator	Harvey J. Buter*
Secretaries	Kristen Beckner, Carol Ter Beek*
Custodian	Mark Faga
Kitchen Coordinator	Judy Bosch*
Recording Treasurer	Delwyn Van Dyke*
Archivist/Historian	Elton J. Bruins*
Minister of Music Emeritus	Roger J. Rietberg
Minister of Congregational Life	Kama Jongerius
Senior Pastor	Kent Fry

*indicates part time staff

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