

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2011

11:00 a.m.

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD'S WORD OF GREETING

PRELUDE Improvisation on 'God Rest You Merry Gentlemen' June Nixon

INTROIT

Arr. by Philip Ledger

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this:
He hath ope'd the heav'nly door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save,
Calls you one, and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

—John Mason Neale

VOTUM

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation!
Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they sing for joy as they see the return of the Lord to Zion!
Break forth into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem
for the Lord has comforted and redeemed Jerusalem.
And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

*GOD'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 40*
Joy to the World!

Tune: ANTIOCH

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

WORDS OF WELCOME

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsively)*

Generous God,
you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,
but often we find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.
Forgive us, generous God,
for the casual way we treat your gift of love.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Hebrews 1:1-4

CHILDREN'S TIME & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(responsively)*

As we light the Christ candle,
we know that the people walking in the darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

*GLORIA *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 23* (vs. 1)
Angels We Have Heard on High

Tune: GLORIA

CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS IN WORD AND SONG

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GENEALOGY OF DAVID, THE ANCESTOR OF JESUS CHRIST
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ruth 4:18-22 p. 244
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 49* (vs. 1 & 4)
Once in Royal David's City

Tune: IRBY

MATTHEW DECLARES THE BIRTH OF JESUS
GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25 p. 1
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*CAROL *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs 53*
What Child Is This?

Tune: GREENSLEVES

SERMON "Christmas Pentecost"

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

RESPONDING IN JOY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (*responsively*)

Leader 1: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Leader 2: The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him —
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

**People: Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ —
the eternal Word made flesh.**

Leader 1: He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

Leader 2: What does this mean—that he
“was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?”

**People: 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.**

Leader 1: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit us?

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

Leader 2: Like he did when he anointed Mary with the Holy Spirit
to give birth to his only Son,
God continues to hold this world with fierce love.

**All: Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world,
pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news:
sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
live anew as members of the family of God —
the first-fruits of a new creation.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

A Lullaby for the Manger Child

Colin Hand

ANTHEM

Arranged by Philip Ledger

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straight-way this blessed babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came, where-at this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface:
—English traditional carol

*DOXOLOGY *Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs* 63 (vs. 3)

Tune: DIX

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION AND LORD’S PRAYER

**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* 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on ‘Puer Nobis’

Rosalie Bonighton

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

+Latecomers will be seated.

*You may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Kent Fry, preaching; Rev. Kama Jongerius, liturgist; Etta Hesselink, prayer for illumination; Leche Family, advent candle lighting; Combined Choirs; 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.

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Marcia Forsman and Tom Ter Haar will be available to pray with you following today’s worship service. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer following the service (located in the south hallway on the main level).

ASSISTING TODAY: Greeters: Craig and Vicky Anderson; Ushers – John and Sheryl Lunn; Deacons: Steve De Young, Carl Heideman

CHILD CARE is available in the nurseries during the worship service. Attendants: Susie Vander Kolk, Andy Zoerman, Joyce and Becky Fry.

There will be no Education Classes December 25 and January 1. Classes resume on Sunday, January 8.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: There will be no “Children and Worship” program this morning. The children are invited to worship with their parents for this “family-friendly” service. The Worship Center program will resume on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

THANK YOU to the Advent Planning Team members who spent hours preparing for this season: Gayle Wilson and Barry Elz conceived of and created the backdrop, Anna Hunsberger Bogertman served as the dance consultant and liaison. Staff members Kent Fry, Linda Strouf, and Kama Jongerius also served on the team.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY Office Closed

TUESDAY
12:00 p.m. Office Closed

WEDNESDAY
12:00 p.m. Office Closed

THURSDAY
12:00 p.m. Office Closed

FRIDAY Office Closed

PERSONAL

Share your prayer concerns by using the prayer request cards found on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Place the requests in the prayer box or offering plate. Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

SYMPATHY is extended to Erv and Sandy Ter Haar in the death of their sister-in-law, Ruth Ter Haar, on December 2.

SYMPATHY is extended to Alma Van Lente in the death of her sister-in-law, Hattie Buter, on December 16.

SYMPATHY is extended to Cynthia and Andy DeBoer in the death of Cynthia’s mother, Susan Wieringa, on December 17 in Grand Rapids.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Ron South and Erwin Ter Haar have returned home from the hospital. Royal Park Atrium – Gerry & Corky Tillema; Oak Crest of Spring Lake – Alma Van Lente; Out of Town – Ann Romeyn, 2380 Aurora Ponds Dr. SW #322, Wyoming, MI 49519; Elisabeth Ten Zythoff, 6447 Franwood Terrace, Fort Worth, TX 76112.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

TASC: TASC (Third’s After Supper Club) dinner and classes will resume for the second semester on Wednesday, January 11. Dinner is served at 5:45 p.m. Classes begin for all ages at 6:30 p.m. Classes for adults include: Sanctuary Choir, Knitting Ministry, and a Bible Study class. **TASC WEATHER POLICY:** If Holland Public Schools are cancelled on a Wednesday due to weather there will be no TASC dinner or classes. Cancellations will be announced on WHTC and WOOD TV 8.

GENERAL ITEMS

CHURCH OFFERINGS: It would be helpful to the treasurers of the church if the year-end church offerings were turned in by Thursday, December 29.

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH OF HOLLAND is seeking a Church Administrator who will be responsible for managing the business affairs of the church and working with church members and staff to achieve the church’s mission objectives. Responsibilities include Personnel, Facilities, Financial, and Office Management. This is a 25-30 hour/week, exempt position. Ordination is not required, but the role should be viewed as a form of ministry. A Bachelor’s degree is required, as well as, excellent communication skills and experience with common office computer systems. Experience working in a position of leadership with volunteer organizations is desired. Express your interest in this position, by January 15, by calling, 392-1459, or e-mailing Kristen in the church office.

WORSHIP SERVICES: On Sunday, January 1 there will be only one service at 11:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The office will close at noon Tuesday-Thursday, December 27-29. The office will also be closed on Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Mark your calendar for the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 1, 2012. Serving will begin at 9:30 a.m. and all donations go to support church mission projects. Start out the new year with your church family and friends. The Pancake Breakfast will be followed by a worship service at 11:00 a.m.

The congregation is invited to a Christmas-Epiphany Open House Dessert at Pastor Kent and Joyce Fry's home on Wednesday, January 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The church parsonage is the first house west of the church at 134 W. 12th St. Children are invited.

The Marilyn Brown house is nearly ready for a family to move in. We need a washer and dryer for the house. If anyone has one/both to donate, please call Marj Hoekstra at 399-3931 to arrange for a pickup.

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.

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.

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 in the church office or call the church office, 392-1459.

THIRD REFORMED CHURCH

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E-mail: trc@macatawa.org

Website: www.trcholland.org

CareLine: (616) 393-5574 or (800) 937-5774

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, & Chapel
are wired with an Induction Hearing Loop

A Stephen Ministry Congregation