

Christmastide
December 27, 2020

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH, George F. Handel, adapt.
Setting by Raymond H. Haan

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

*The Carol

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH, Isaac Watts, Lowell Mason

*The Call to Worship

Leader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Leader 2: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

Leader 1: The light shines in the darkness.

Leader 2: And the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader 1: For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

All: Come, let us worship and adore Him.

*The Songs of Praise

Joy Has Dawned with Angels We Have Heard on High

Stuart Townend, Keith Getty

GLORIA Traditional French carol, arr. Edward S. Barnes, Richard E. Gerig

The Confession of Sin

Leader 1: Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that You have revealed to us in the Nativity of Your Son.

Leader 2: You sent Christ to be born as a helpless child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children.

Leader 1: You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women.

Leader 2: The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and yet we have not attended to the cry of the homeless.

Leader 1: You announced Your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore those who tend our farms and fields.

Leader 2: Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion, that we may know Christ in serving others.

Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Song of Response

Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

The Affirmation of Forgiveness

By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.

Go forth, knowing that you are forgiven, that you are loved, and that God's light is shining on you, bringing you out of darkness into God's marvelous light. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

"Two Old Prophets and a Baby"

The Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The News of the Church Alive

*The Carol

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

African American Spiritual, 19th C

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

*Gloria for the Flutes
(on a Traditional French carol)*

Alice Jordan

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders:

Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgist – Kathy Geurink; Organ – Beth Sweers; Praise Team

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update – December 27, 2020

Week of December 21

December 20 Collection Plate \$ 0,000.00

Online Giving: \$ 7,272.00

Mail in Offering: \$ 29,044.00

Total Offering: \$ 36,316.00

December Total: \$ 94,461.00

December Goal: \$120,000.00

Thanksgiving Goal: \$ 20,000.00

Thanksgiving Offering: \$ 17,605.00

Outstanding Mortgage Balance \$207,578.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

THANK YOU...

... First Reformed Church for the meals to our staff. We were touched by your thoughtfulness. Our community's support means so much to us! **2 South (COVID floor) Staff at Butterworth Hospital**

...Special thanks to so many of you for your outpouring of love through prayers, phone calls, cards, emails, and texts, after my Mom's passing. We have felt the warm embrace of your thoughtfulness and it is appreciated more than you know. **Rick & Karen Smallegan**

Youth Mission Trip fundraisers:

- **Pop can drive** - There will be a labeled trash can in the Youth Lounge all year for you to drop off your empty cans.

Maple Tree Preschool Fundraisers

Scholastic Book Orders:

Stock up on birthday and Christmas gifts for your grandchildren/children! When you order from Scholastic, it earns Maple Tree rewards including books, preschool toys, manipulatives and classroom supplies for free!

HOME DELIVERY: During the COVID-19 crisis, you can choose at checkout to have book orders shipped to Maple Tree Preschool or to your homes.

Order Online at [Scholastic Book Clubs](#)

Sign in or create an account.

Connect to Maple Tree Preschool by entering our Class Code: P63H2

Books are ordered monthly (September-April).

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS

For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

We extend prayers of healing & comfort for:

- **Evelyn Lindhout**, in the hospital following a heart attack.
- **Janet Pofahl**, in the hospital in Georgia.
- **Helen Dertien**, recovering from surgery for a broken hip.
- **Eileen Zwart**, recovering from the virus.
- **Barb Holwerda**, recovering from surgery on torn tendons in her foot.
- **Mike Dertien**, going through radiation.
- Bryce & Ali Lutke's baby girl, **Emery Jane**, was released from the hospital.
- **BJ Veneklasen**, completed her third round of chemo.
- **Deb Oskam** (daughter-in-law of Maria Oskam), has cancer surgery of the uterus on December 29.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Betty Isenga, Leonora Smit, Don Alderink, Dorothy VanderLaan, Karin Dykstra, Emmett Hough, Chuck Duimstra, Roy DeJonge, Curt Stoel, Jakob Kempema, Henry Vos Jr., Kaitlin Kremers Lyons, Rikki Leanne DePuy.**

We extend Christian Sympathy to:

- To the **family and friends of Milo Buikema**, who passed away December 21.
- To **Vic & Ruth DeJonge**, at the passing of Vic's 94 year old sister in Lamont, MI.

Please keep all our military troops in your prayers, especially:

- **Dustin Lambries, Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck** (Betty Isenga's grandsons), **Edward Peter Tolhurst** (Pat Bird's nephew)

Please keep in your hearts and minds:

- Our **Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Judy Baartman, Crystal Baum, Vern & Norma Boss, Bill & Helen Dertien, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Dorothy VanderLaan, Evelyn Watson, Mary Zomerlei

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lois Kosten	84 on the 11 th
Don Ferris	85 on the 27 th
Fran Rinkus	92 on the 28 th
David Kuiper	81 on the 30 th