

**Advent II**  
December 5, 2021

**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

The Prelude

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
(Based on the tune by Rowland H. Prichard)

arr. Gregg Sewell

**WE APPROACH OUR GOD**

The Welcome and Greeting

\*The Call to Worship

Leader 1: What are you waiting for?

Leader 2: Let the PEACE of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body, you were called to PEACE and to be thankful.

**People: Lord, You establish PEACE for us; all that we have accomplished You have done for us.**

Leader 1: Where is your PEACE?

Leader 2: PEACE comes with Christ. PEACE is near. God with us! The birth of Christ is the birth of PEACE.

**People: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader 1: What are you waiting for?

\*The Advent Hymn

***Blessed Be the God of Israel***

Carl P. Daw Jr., FOREST GREEN  
English folk tune, adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Advent Candle Lighting

Reader 1: Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in hope. *(The first candle is lit.)*

Reader 2: As we wait, we join the Spirit's work in spreading peace wherever our lives take us.

Reader 1: As peace spreads, so does Christ's light.

Reader 2: Today, we light the candle of peace.

Readers 1 & 2: As we wait, let us be people of peace. *(The second candle is lit.)*

\*The Advent Song

***Come, Messiah King***

Randy Vader

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:68-79

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Message

**"Help Is On the Way"**

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

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS**

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Traditional, arr. David Nevue

The Christmas Story

***Were You There on That Christmas Night?***

Lloyd Larson

*A Great Light!*

*Bethlehem*

*Never Been a Night Like This!*

The News of the Church Alive

\*The Benediction

\*All who are able, please stand

**Worship Leaders:** Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgists – Jeff Watson, The Dragicevich Family, Kathy Geurink, Doris Kuipers; Organist – Beth Sweers; String Quartet – Marilyn Brannen, Barb VanderHeide, Mal Brannen, Kevin Sweers; Chancel Choir

**Please follow our church social media pages:**

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

**Stewardship Update:**

November 28 Collection Plate	\$ 17,243.00
Online Giving:	\$ <u>2,557.00</u>
Total Offering:	\$ 19,800.00
Thanksgiving offering as of 12/1	\$ 14,112.00
Average weekly offering needed to make 2021 budget	\$ 16,975.00
2021 Annual budget	\$882,740.00
<b>Text to Give</b> - 616-208-4301	
Budget Update as of October 31, 2021	
Offerings received	\$643,496.00
Expenses paid	- \$647,083.00
	<u>(\$ - 3,587.00)</u>

**TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**Sunday Children's Programming Schedule:**

**1st and 2nd Sunday of the month:**

Nursery ages - can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive & picked up after the worship service.

Ages 3 years – Kindergarten can be dropped off in room #113 South when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

1st Grade-5th Grade can be dropped off in the downstairs Assembly Room when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

**Please note:** We are following Grandville Public School Covid guidelines, so masks are required for kids, as well as our volunteers at this time.

**Middle School** (6th - 8th grades) & **High School** (9th - 12th grades) meets in the Youth Lounge following worship. Donuts provided.

**Adult Sunday school** – today following worship in the upstairs adult ed room. Denominational conversation and update with Bob Stelma and Kathy Carpenter. Talking about and reflecting on recent activity and issues within the denomination.

**Middle School youth group** meets on Sundays from 4:00pm - 5:30pm in the Youth gym.

**High School youth group** meets on Sundays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Youth gym.

**YOUTH HAPPENINGS**

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) – meets Monday, November 29, at 7:27pm at the Brinks home – 3936 Hall St. Questions? Contact Jeff Watson at [jeffw@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jeffw@firstgrandville.org) or 616-250-7148.

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) – meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month in the Family Life Center.

**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.

**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

**Adult Sunday school** – December 5 following worship. Denominational discussion with Bob Stelma and Kathy Carpenter. Talking about and reflecting on recent activity and issues within the denomination.

**Women in the Word** – meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the upstairs adult ed room. The study for this week includes pages 197-209. Questions? Call Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008

**Anna Circle** – meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 9:30am – 11:00am in the upstairs small adult ed room. We are studying the book *Winning the War in Your Mind*.

**Bells of Joy** – Tuesdays, 6:30pm.

**Chancel Choir** – Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00pm

**FOCUS** – Wednesdays - Dinner (with covid protocol) begins at 5:30 PM. Dinner will be chicken cordon blue. Classes for kids and adults begin at 6:30pm. Chancel choir meets from 7:00-8:00pm. Masks will be encouraged throughout the evening as we begin gathering in close quarters. This will be the last FOCUS of 2021.

#### **WAYS OF GIVING**

**Missionary Christmas cards** - Want to send our Missionaries in the field a reminder of our love and appreciation for them this Christmas season? Our Missionaries often tell us how meaningful the Christmas cards are that they receive from First Church every year. There is a list of our missionaries in your mailslot. Please use this to label your cards and place them in the mailbox next to the congregation mailboxes by Wednesday, December 8th.

**Family at Home Christmas Cards** - Sharing the joy of Christmas with our Family at Home members is a gift you can give them by sending a card. Knowing their church family remembers them during this season is truly a gift. Simply write the member's name on the envelope. You can find a list of the Family at Home members in your mailslot. Maybe add a personal note to your card and sign your name. These cards can be dropped in the basket in the Activity Center.

#### **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:**

- **Don Ferris**, having back surgery December 7
- **Karen Diekema**, recovering from foot surgery .
- **Sarah Farney**, recovering from surgery for subglottic stenosis.
- **Reid Dykstra**, recovering from knee surgery.
- **Ted Wierenga**, at Mary Free Bed for rehab and recovery following falls and a severely broken elbow.
- **Orlene Porte**, home recovering from a stroke and having further testing.
- **Glenn Zwart**, recovering from open heart surgery.
- **Misty Holwerda**, Bob & Barb Holwerda's daughter, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and being treated..
- **Chuck Duimstra and his family**, as he faces ongoing and declining health issues.
- **Gerardo & Lila VacaGuzman**, doing volunteer work in Peru and Bolivia for a month.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Ron Cook, Kay Mekkes, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Curt Stoel, Erica Obi, Jakob Kempema**

##### **We extend Christian sympathy to:**

- The family of **Wayne Veneklasen**, at the passing of his wife, BJ, on November 28.
- The family of **Brian & Julie Cook**, at the passing of Brian's mom, Sheri Cook, on November 25.

##### **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), **Ben Westrick**

##### **Please keep in your hearts and minds:**

- Our **Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Judy Baartman, Crystal Baum, Norma Boss, Ron & Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Karin Dykstra, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Janet Pofahl, Evelyn Watson, Mary Zomerlei  
**December FAH birthdays:** 12/5 - Lois Morehouse, Rivertown Ridge, Unit 108, 3555 Copper River Ave., Wyoming 49418

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors Bud Pratt - 708-302-5645, Matt Cook - 616-893-4189 or consistory vice president Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.

## **THANK YOU...**

... We received this thank you note from Paula (Cards for Prisoners/70x7). This ministry is one of our Thanksgiving Offering recipients this year.

"Thank you and First Reformed for inviting me last night (Focus Night 11/17) and for all the help with the cards. I put them on my desk this morning and am amazed at how much was accomplished! I am very grateful for all your help and the love you show to everyone!"

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Aleksandar Cmiljic	87 on the 14 <sup>th</sup>
Lois Morehouse	80 on the 15 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce VanderMarkt	89 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>
Jerry Hart	80 on the 26 <sup>th</sup>
Ruth DeJonge	82 on the 27 <sup>th</sup>
Sheryl Tusch	85 on the 29 <sup>th</sup>
Carol Hoffman	86 on the 30 <sup>th</sup>