

HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE

Advent IV

December 18, 2022

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

West Indies Carol

The Prelude

Caribbean Song, arr. Sondra K. Tucker

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome and *Greeting

*The Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL, 15th C.

*The Call to Worship

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

Leader: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us—
the gift of the Christ Child.

People: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that Your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Leader: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

People: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive Your blessed gift. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

The Advent Song

Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

"The Birth of a Baby"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

The Litany of Separation (see attached)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing with King of Heaven

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn
Jason Ingram, Paul Baloche

The Christmas Story continues

JOY HAS DAWNED

Lloyd Larson

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Brightest and Best of the Stars

Joy Has Dawned

Jesus Christ Is Born!

The News of the Church Alive

Our Celebration continues....

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgists – Pastor Matt Cook, The Watsons; Bells of Joy; Praise Team

Many thanks to all who have prepared the cantata, *Joy Has Dawned*:

Narrators – Mary Cook, Doris Kuipers; Pianist – Beth Sweers; String Ensemble – Marilyn Brannen, Barb Vander Heide, Mal Brannen, Kevin Sweers, Rick Dragicevich

The Chancel Choir:

Soprano - Kim Donze, Barbara Gossett, Carole Kempema, Susan Kooima, Julie Ploeg, Michele Sisson, Pamela Slagter, Lou Stelma, Jill Weigle, Val Westrick

Alto - Holly Bolhouse, Marcie Curnutt, Kris Dennett, Gail Frens, Barb Nienhuis, Marilyn Stelma, Vonda Style, Karen Wenerski, Becky Zwart

Tenor - Rick Gossett, Scott Johnson, Mart Lantinga, Bud Pratt

Bass – Ken Gorlitz, Larry Kuipers, Jack Manders, Clark Matthews, Bob Stelma, El Zwart

The Youth Singers: Natalie Breuker, Paige Breuker, Leah Kooima, Nathaniel Kooima, Eva Pratt, Ellie Pratt, Shansea Christian

Image - Hope, Peace, Joy, Love © 2022 Nicholas Markell | Eyekons

Advent Candle Lighting liturgy ©Carol Penner

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

Dec. 11 Collection Plate	\$ 14,374.00
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 4,581.00</u>
Total Offering:	\$ 18,955.00

Average weekly offering needed to make 2022 budget	\$ 18,258.00
2022 Annual budget	\$949,429.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

TODAY at FRC

Welcome to First Reformed Church in Grandville. If you are visiting, a warm welcome to you. Our prayer is that this worship service will usher you to the throne of grace. Pastor Bud Pratt brings the morning message. If you are searching for a church home and would like more information about First Reformed Church, please stop at the Welcome Desk near the main entrance. We would love to meet you. Please join us for coffee time following the service in the room to your left.

Please join us following the service for brunch to celebrate Bud and Patty in the Activity Center

Sunday Children's Programming Schedule:

Nursery (birth – 3 year olds) - can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

Christmas celebration for age 3 to 5th grade during the worship service downstairs in the assembly room. No Sunday school.

There will not be any Sunday school for 3 year olds to 5th grade December 25 or January 1. It will resume on January 8.

No Middle School (6th - 8th grades) & **High School** (9th - 12th grades) **Sunday School. Join us for the brunch!**

No Middle & High School youth group. It will resume on January 8. Contact Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org or 517-803-5686 for further information.

Appreciation Cards for Bud & Patty – There is a box in the narthex for you to send words of thanks or a fond memory as they retire.

LOOKING AHEAD

Handbell choir – Tuesday, 5:15pm

Chancel Choir – Wednesday at 6:30pm

FOCUS will resume January 11.

Women in the Word will resume January 11. We will study Adventurous Prayer. The books are available in the office.

Men's Bible Study - meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30pm. We meet at Marge's Donut Den at 1751 28th St. SW. David Bast will discuss the book which he authored on the Psalms. Mark Davis will lead the discussion on some of the Psalms not covered in David Bast's book.

MegaMen Bible study - meets every Wednesday at 6:00am in the Youth Lounge. If you would enjoy fellowship with other men that dig into the Word, come join us. Contact Dave Lidgard – dlidgard@hpseagles.net or Bob Stelma - mstelmau78@yahoo.com if you have questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On **Christmas Eve** (December 24th at 11:00 PM) we will gather for our traditional Lessons and Carols celebration of the Lord's birth. Pastor Bud, preaching.
- On Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM...**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**) we will gather for a less formal **family friendly worship service** where the simple story of our Savior's birth will be shared with all children participating in the story.
- New Year's Day Worship - Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 AM...**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grandville Middle School WyldLife – December 20 at 7:27pm at the Olson's - 6033 Hillsborough Ct.

Youth Mission Trip fundraiser:

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Meal Train for Alex & Allison Timmer – If you would like to make a meal for the Timmer family here is the link to sign up – <https://mealtrain.com/k0n1kd>. If you are unable to sign up online you can sign up at the sign-up center.

Hand2hand – Each week we deliver food for 43 kids to Century Park Learning Center so the kids will have food to eat for the weekend. We are taking non-perishable food donations for hand2hand. Items needed are: popcorn packets, trail mix, pudding snack packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce/fruit cups, crackers, pretzels, goldfish crackers, any bagged snack, meat or cheese sticks, instant oatmeal, cereal, instant mac 'n cheese, soup, canned pasta, yogurt pouches. These items need to be in individual packets There is a box in the narthex to place your donations. Thank you!

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:

- **Maria Oskam**, having surgery December 21.
- **Dennis Hodges**, having surgery December 28 for a mass on his kidney.
- **Lorretta VerSluis** (Joyce Ferris' sister), continues to recover at home.
- **Beverly VanDuinen** (Jeff's mom), is under the care of hospice.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine**.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Pat Lantinga, Sue Kehr, Jeff Muller, Ron See, Terry Jolink, Joyce VanderMarkt, Lois Morehouse, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Sydney & Ellie Hollen, Bob Waters, Kathy VanRiper.**

We extend Christian sympathy to:

- The **family of Gerardo & Lila VacaGuzman**, at the death of Lila's dad, Arvin Bleyenberg, on December 10.

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

- **Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck** (Betty Isenga's grandsons), **Edward Peter Tolhurst** (Pat Bird's nephew), **Ben Westrick, Ben DeRuyter** (Jack and Jackie's grandson)

Please keep in your hearts and minds:

- **Our Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Crystal Baum, Mary Lou Besteman, Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Marilyn DeVree, Karin Dykstra, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Janet Pofahl, Art Tusch, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei

Thank you to our church family for all the cards, kind words of encouragement, and especially the prayers on our behalf during Curt's long fight with cancer and passing. Carol Stoel, Kim & Scott Donze, Kyleigh & Ryan Elenbaas and Lexi & Cole Miller

Kim & Scott and family would also like to thank you for the cards, kind words and prayers for Scott's dad, Adrian Doze, during his hospitalization and passing.

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors Bud Pratt - 708-302-5645, Jeff Watson – 616-250-7148, Matt Cook - 616-893-4189, Melanie Kilgore – 269-330-0155 or consistory vice president Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.

A SERVICE OF FAREWELL FOR PASTOR AND CONGREGATION

Leader: The church family is ever changing. Loved ones are born into the family and loved ones come to the end of their lives among us. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we celebrate the gifts Bud and Patty have brought to us as our pastor and director of music. Hear Paul's words written to the Ephesians:

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift...The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Eph. 4:7-13)

Today we share a time of farewell with Bud and Patty, whose time as our pastor and music director comes to an end. Bud was installed as our pastor in June 2012 and Patty joined him soon after to begin her ministry among us.

Bud, at your installation as the Minister of Word and Sacrament of this congregation, we read that same Scripture and we made vows to one another. You were charged to proclaim the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to instruct us from the Word of God, to admonish us, to comfort us, to reprove us. You promised to administer the sacraments, to share responsibility for our mutual Christian growth, and to exercise Christian love and discipline. You were charged to be a loyal witness to the Reformed Church in America and to further its mission in the world.

We, in turn, promised to receive the word of truth you proclaimed and to submit with cheer to the ministry you provided. We promised to encourage you and pray for you, to participate and work with you, and to financially care for your family. Paul's words remind us today, even as he reminded the Ephesians:

...to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:1-6)

Pastor Bud: Patty and I thank you, sisters and brothers, for the love, kindness and support shown to us these past 10 ½ years. We are grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy we recall what we accomplished together with God's help and with even greater joy those days when we walked Christ's journey together. I ask for your forgiveness for mistakes we've made and expectations not met.

**People: We offer our forgiveness and celebrate all that God has accomplished among us.
We are grateful for your ministry and for your influence upon our lives.**

Pastor Bud: Patty and I receive your gratitude and love, and in two weeks, we will release you from the vows and promises you made at my installation.

People: We, too, in two weeks, will release you from your promises to us, and we offer to you both our blessing as you retire from parish ministry and move to a new chapter in your lives of service to our Lord.

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray: O God, you have bound us together for a season in time as pastor, music director, and people to work for your church in this place. We give you thanks for the ministry we have shared.

Silence

We give you thanks for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy when we have failed.

Silence

We especially thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deepened knowledge of you and of each other.

Silence

We give you thanks for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism and confessions of faith. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly at your table. We remember those who have gone before and we look with hope toward those who will come.

Silence

Now, we pray, be with Bud, Patty and their family, and with this congregation. Grant that all of us, by drawing closer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Pratts now with this benediction.

**People: Unto God's gracious mercy we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, both this day and forever. Amen.**