

Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2022

GATHERING

The Prelude *Ding Dong Merrily on High* Traditional carols, arr. Anna Laura Page

The Welcome

The Call to Worship

Leader 1: A light shining in the darkness . . .

Leader 2: What could it be?

Leader 1: The sound of angels' wings . . .

Leader 2: What could it mean?

Leader 1: A Baby born in a stable . . .

Leader 2: Who could it be?

Leader 1: Come to Bethlehem and see.

*The Carol ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** ADESTE FIDELES, John F. Wade

WE HEAR GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to Children

The Story of Jesus' Birth selected passages

*The Carol ***Away in a Manger*** John McFarland, James R. Murray

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to tell us that Jesus is born. Today is Christmas, a day of gifts and love and laughter. We do all this because of the baby Jesus, the greatest gift of all. Let us walk together in HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE and let the light of Christ shine through us all!

The Prayer

*The Carol ***Angels We Have Heard on High*** GLORIA, 18th C. French carol

The Litany

Leader 1: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy Child was born

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 2: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 1: In a stable, Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 2: Angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest"

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 1: Shepherds left their sheep to see.

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 2: Wise men from the East followed God's shining sign.

People: Welcome the Light!

Leader 1: And on this Christmas Day, with joy, we greet the Child.

People: Welcome the Light!

WE GO OUT TO SHARE THE LIGHT

*The Carol ***Joy to the World*** Isaac Watts, ANTIOCH,
Lowell Mason, G.F. Handel

*The Benediction

*The Postlude *God Rest Ye Merry*

English carol, arr. Wilbur Held

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgist – Pastor Melanie Kilgore,
Pastor Jeff Watson; Organist – Patty Pratt; Flutist – Barb Nienhuis.

Welcome to our Christmas Day Celebration! It is a privilege to share this time of worship with you. We hope you have been blessed through this celebration and we pray that you have encountered the love of God that seeks, saves, reaches, rescues and embraces all who open their hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem; our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Baskets will be located in the narthex to receive your Christmas offerings.

On New Year's day (Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 AM...**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**)

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

Dec. 18 Collection Plate \$ 26,756.00

Online Giving: \$ 4,187.00

Total Offering: \$ 30,943.00

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.

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.

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 & High School Sunday School or youth group. It will resume on January 8.

YEAR END GIVING - Year End Gifts and Offerings can be drop off the church office anytime between now and December 31st. If you drop by after office hours or the office is closed please use the silver drop box located by the north door. Remember you can use our online service by going to our webpage: www.firstgrandville.org - look for the resources tab and find the giving link. This is another way to donate that is safe and secure. If you have any other questions, please contact Jeff VanDuinen at the church office. (616) 534-5465

*Merry Christmas from all of us at First
Reformed Church!*

IMPENDING WEATHER ALERTS

Due to the weather forecast for the upcoming weekend, we wanted to let you know that there are a number of ways to find out if our church services or activities are cancelled.

- Cancellations will be broadcast on local TV stations: Channels 8 (Wood TV), 13 (WZZM), and FOX 17.
- An all-church email will be sent to our email database.
- You can also sign up for cell phone text alerts (used ONLY for this purpose) by texting @jvanduini to 81010. (This only needs to be done once and you will be in the text group).

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carol Bernson	81 on the 2 nd	Don Ferris on the 27 th
Lois Kosten	86 on the 11 th	Fran Rinkus on the 28 th
Marjorie Fisk	88 on the 20 th	

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**, recovering from surgery.
- **Dennis Hodges**, having surgery December 28 for a mass on his kidney.
- **Dale Scholtens** (Mary Cook's & Pastor Matt's father), hospitalized with blood clots.
- **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.**

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