

December 17, 2023

# Morning Worship

## GATHER

Prelude

The Lighting of the Advent Candles - The Laansma Family

\*Song: **Hark! The Glad Sound vs 1-4**

\*God's Greeting

\*Song: **Go, Tell It On the Mountain vs 1-3**

## PRAISE

Ministry Update: Cadets

First CRC Ministry Update

Congregational Prayer

Song: **Love Has Come! vs 1-3**

[Children ages 2-4 are invited to Children's Worship]

\*Song: **Comfort, Comfort, Now My People vs 1, 3**

## WORD

Scripture: *Isaiah 40: 1-11*

Series: The Gifts of Christmas

Message: **Comfort**

Prayer

## SENT

\*Benediction

\*Song: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vs 2, 3**

\*Postlude and Christian Fellowship

[Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship service]

Pastor Dave

Accompanist: Emily Vande Griend

Pianists: Emery Brouwer, Sawyer Dekker, Elizabeth Power,

Eve Power, Aurelia Vande Griend

\*Congregation stands if able

# Welcome!

*If you have a prayer request or you would like to know more about us, please fill out the Welcome Card and place in one of the Connection boxes as you leave the sanctuary.  
To view our services online go to: [firstchurchdudsonville.org](http://firstchurchdudsonville.org) and click the link at the top of the page.*

## THIS SUNDAY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**AM: Isaiah 40: 1-11** Series: The Gifts of Christmas Message: **Comfort**

During Advent we sing of tidings of "comfort and joy." In this message we'll unwrap and delight in God's Christmas gift of comfort.

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after morning worship to approve the 2024 Budget. Offering: Samaritans Carriage

**PM: Genesis 1-26-27** Series: Sound Doctrine Message: **Learning to be Human**

What does it mean to be a human being? What does God's Word say about who we are? These questions have never been more important. Are we simply more highly evolved monkeys? And what might Artificial Intelligence mean for our understanding of who we are. Join us tonight as explore what God's Word says about us.

Offering: Starlight Ministries

## NEXT WEEK: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**AM: Hebrews 1: 1-4** Series: The Gifts of Christmas Message: **Revelation** We live in a world full of noise and distraction that leaves us with a deep longing to experience the presence and voice of God. In this message, we'll reflect on God's gift of revelation. We'll learn how God speaks and how we can tune our hearts to hear His voice. Offering: Benevolent Fund

**PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** This simple, beautiful service will focus our attention on the real meaning of the season. We will read from the Scriptures, sing the favorite carols, and reflect on Jesus's entry into the world. At the end of the service, the sanctuary will be filled with candlelight as we sing "O, Holy Night." Offering: Starlight Ministries

## Coming up:

Christmas morning worship, December 25, 9:30AM. Offering: World Renew

## THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday Adult Education** - after morning worship.
- **Pop! Christmas Jr & Snr High** - Sunday, December 17, 6:00PM.
- **Ladies' Bible Study** - Tuesday, December 19, 7:00PM.
- **Young at Heart Breakfast** - Wednesday, December 20, 9:30AM.
- **Cadets, Gems** - Wednesday, December 20, 6:30PM.
- **Security Team Meeting** - Wednesday, December 20, 7:00PM.

Evening offerings for the month of **December** will go to Starlight Ministries. Offerings may be placed in the boxes located at the sanctuary entrances.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congregational Meeting Today.** A brief Congregational Meeting for all church members will be held immediately after the morning worship service. There will be a supervised activity for all the kids in the basement. Dave Hekstra will also have the youth room open for the young people.

**Sunday Adult Education on the book of 1 Peter** - Sunday mornings, 11 AM, in the Upstairs Fellowship room. Everyone is welcome. No books or pre-reading; just show up! Leader: Pastor Marc VanBerkum

**Security Team Volunteers needed** - The security team needs a few more members to assist during worship services. If you would like to be involved with the security of our facility, please contact Jeff Horstman or Dave Williams. Training will be available on December 20.

**Who can you invite?** There are postcards at the Welcome Center for you to handout to those who may not otherwise attend church.

**Walk Up Choir** - On December 24th during morning worship you are invited to participate in our Walk up choir. We will sing God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. Music is available by the organ if you'd like to see it ahead of time. No rehearsals, just come sing!

**Catechism/Sunday School Christmas program** practice will meet after the morning service on 12/3 & 12/10 and take a short break for the Christmas season. Catechism and Sunday School will resume on 1/7/24.

**YOUNG AT HEART:** Join us for Breakfast at Arrows in Hudsonville on Wednesday, December 20th at 9:30AM.

December Missionary Highlight:

**Ray and Angie DeLange**, Church Planting Catalysts with East-West Ministries

Prayer Items:

- Pray that Angie finds relief from her back pain.
- Pray for physical and spiritual protection for the students and staff at Pars Theological Centre.
- Pray for the Middle Eastern people group to whom the DeLanges are ministering.

**Nursery:** The Nursery is open for morning services.

This Week: Sandy Helms, Jenna Persenaire, Elizabeth Power

Next Sunday: Kara Helms, Kelly Caryl, Anna Hoezee

**Ushers for December:**

**AM:** Dave Aukeman, Andrew Bard, Zac Byker, Alan Groenendyk

**PM:** Dan Helms, Dan Los, Cal Palmbos

**Coffee Server:** This Week: Betty Velderman

Next Week: Judy DeHaan

## PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER

**A Birthday to remember!** Happy birthday to **Clara Cadahia**, who celebrates her 92nd birthday on Tuesday, December 19!

**Concerns and Praises:**

- **Mic Jurgens** had hip surgery last Tuesday.
- Keep in prayer those who live with on-going health concerns: **Dave Vruwink, Flo Bosscher, Sharon Walters, Kathy Krikke, Donna Machiela, The Los family, and Charlie Elgersma.**

**Shut-ins: Sharon Walters, Dan Bloem, Andy Machiela, and Bob/Marie Heyboer.**

If you have any needs or prayer requests, please contact your Care Group Elder/Deacon or Pastor Dave.

**Our Prayer Coordinator, Tammy Schnyders**, produces a monthly prayer sheet, "Partners in Prayer", sends out prayer emails, and regularly updates the Praise and Prayer Line [669.5548]. If you have a prayer need contact Pastor Dave, your Care Group Elder, or Tammy Schnyders.

**Charlie and Julia Elgersma** are praising God for answered prayers for the most recent test results! While the treatments will continue, testing shows no current detectable level of activity. Also, a big Thank You! to the congregation for all the continuing prayers and encouragement!

## FROM THE DENOMINATION

**Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible story podcast "The Shepherds."

**Christmas Possibility** - Next week we celebrate the possibility of being made right with God, starting with the birth of Jesus. He showed us the way to give to people in need. You can give a goat, a family water filter, or a tree pruning kit from World Renew's Gift Catalog at [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972.

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

**Unity Christian High School** has several teaching positions open for the 2024-25 academic year. If you or someone you know is looking for a new teaching opportunity, please visit Unity's website ([www.unitychristian.org/connect/EmploymentOpportunities](http://www.unitychristian.org/connect/EmploymentOpportunities)) for more details and instructions on how to apply. Positions available are: Full time – Science, Spanish, STEM; Part time – Industrial Arts, Art.

## FROM LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

### Requesting Donations

- We are requesting donations for ALL travel sized items (body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, bar soap, etc.) and baby wipes.
- We are in need of women's deodorant, shaving cream, mouthwash, and baby wipes
- We are in need of kids shoes, men's clothing, and kitchenware.

If you or someone you know is struggling due to the increase in gas and groceries, please reach out to our connection center at 616-662-3300x128!

## December 17, 2023 - Evening Service

### GATHER

Prelude

Call to Worship: *The Word Made Flesh*

[The Ligonier Statement on Christology]

\*Songs: **O Come, All Ye Faithful vs 1-2**

**Angels We have heard on High vs 1-3**

**Away in a Manger vs 1, 3**

\*God's Greeting

\*Song: **We Three Kings vs 1-5**

### PRAYER

Congregational Prayer

Song: **Infant Holy Infant Lowly CH 279 vs 1-2**

### WORD

Series: Sound Doctrine – Understanding and Living What We Believe

Scripture: *Genesis 1: 26-27*

Message: ***Learning To Be Human***

Prayer

### SENT

\*Benediction

**\*Song: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne vs 1, 4**

\*Postlude and Christian Fellowship

Pastor Dave

Accompanist: Emily Vande Griend

\*Congregation stands if able