

"You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand."
Psalm 16:11

December 12, 2021

Order of Worship

Morning Service
3rd Sunday of Advent – Joy

Video Prelude ~ Joy Has Dawned (Getty)

Welcome and Announcements

We Come to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Song ~ CH 247 Let's Worship and Adore Him

*Call to Worship ~

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

People: And we are filled with joy!

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

*Song of Advent ~ CH 278 Angels We Have Heard on High

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Profession of Faith ~ Marshall Besteman

Song of Celebration ~ Cornerstone

Message for the Children

Song of Advent ~ CH 262 Away in a Manger

Advent Reading ~ The Joy of Home

Leader: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Luke 3:8-16

Reader One: It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure

joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader Two: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. God has provided the way for us to live in this truth even here, even now, because of Jesus. It is joy to go home.

Reader One: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that we need to make choices to live in this joy, to produce fruit. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us in Jesus' name. We grow in joy as we build a home in this world and prepare for the next.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Song ~ CH 249 v1, 2 O Come, All Ye Faithful

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Our Prayer Confession ~ based on Psalm 126

Leader: God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things – our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have.

People: Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone. Amen.

Our Assurance ~ based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

People: Thanks be to God!

Song of Response ~ CH 273 Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Congregational Prayer

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

God's Word for Us

*Song ~ Speak O Lord

Scripture Reading ~ Isaiah 40:6-8

Message ~ Do You Hear the Cry?

Prayer

*Song ~ CH 270 v 1, 2 Joy to the World!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

We Depart to Serve

*God's Parting Blessing

*Closing Song ~ CH 270 v 3, 4 Joy to the World!

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Zechariah's Song ~ from Luke 1:68-79

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

People: He has raised up for us a horn of salvation, a mighty Savior, from the house of his servant David.

Leader: To show the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,

People: To deliver us from the hand of our enemy, so that we might serve and worship him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our lives.

Leader: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the Sunrise (of Christ) shall visit us from on high, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

The Angel's Good News ~ Luke 2:10-14.

Leader: The angel of the Lord proclaimed; Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

People: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Our Profession ~ Apostles Creed (PH 3)

The Institution ~ 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Prayer of Consecration – Conclude with the Lord's Prayer

The Dedication

Leader: "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him."

People: We praise you Father, for sending us your son Jesus, who fills our hearts with the fruit of advent. We offer you our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing in your eyes – our offering of thanks.

The Invitation

Leader: All of you who are sorry for your sins and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have professed this in a Christian Church, God invites you to take part in this celebration. For those of you who have not yet made this commitment to Christ, God asks that you wait until a time when you are able to profess Him as your Savior.

People: Come, then, for all is ready. Christ was raised to life, death is swallowed up and victory is won. Alleluia!

The Communion

Our Thanksgiving

Leader: People of God, since the Lord has fed us at his table, let us praise his holy name with Thanksgiving.

People: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor, glory and power, forever and ever! Amen (Rev. 5:9, 12 & 13)

RUDYARD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
THE SUNDAY BULLETIN – December 12, 2021

Nursery is provided in the Educational Building for children up to age three.

Attendants today: Laura Schippers, Laurie Morley, Kyle Postma, and Bryce Mitchell

Next week: Tammy Folkersma, Cherie Rice, Ethan Hoolsema, and Jenelle Hoolsema

Junior Worship is provided in the Educational Building for 3, 4, and 5 year olds not yet in school. They will be dismissed before the morning sermon.

Helpers today: Leah Beelen, Andrew Borowski, and Jenelle Hoolsema

Next week: Amber Tuzinowski, Kyle Postma, and Liam Hoolsema

Sunday School and Catechism will meet today at 10:45 am.

Offerings today: **A.M. – General Fund**

P.M. –

Next week: **A.M. – General Fund**

P.M.

2021 Amount Budgeted Weekly for General Fund: \$3638.

December 5 Offerings:

General Fund: \$4160; Missions: \$75; GEMS: \$100; Benevolence Fund: \$340.36.

THIS WEEK – December 12 - 19

TODAY:

- We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during the morning service.
- The **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** will meet at the church at 4:30 pm.
- Please join us at 7:00 for the Community Chorus Concert. Refreshments after the program.

MONDAY:

- Women's Bible Study will meet at 10:00 in the fellowship room. We are studying Lesson 6.

TUESDAY:

- The Genesis Bible Study will meet at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAY:

- **Women's Prayer Group** will meet in the Council Room at 10:00 am.
- **GEMS** (Grades 1-8) will meet at the church from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.
- **Cadets** (Grades 1-8) will meet at the church from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.
- **Building Committee** will meet at the parsonage at 6:30 pm.

FAMILY NEWS

Advance notice:

- ~ Christmas Candlelight Service will be December 19 at 5 pm.
- ~ There will be no Christmas Day service. We will be celebrating it the following day on December 26.
- ~ The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 2, after the morning service. The meeting is held to approve a new budget for the church and to elect Elders and Deacons. The nominations for Elder are: Al VanSloten, Bob Miller, and Bruce Berkompas. The nominees for Deacon are: Carl Jensen, Darrel Hoolsema, and Jerry VanSloten.

Please join our prayer team in the library every Sunday from 9:00 – 9:20 am as we pray for our church, our Council, and our church family.