

“Offer up to God your thanksgiving,
And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.”
Ps. 50:6

December 19, 2021

Order of Worship

Morning Service
4th Sunday of Advent – Love

Welcome and Announcements

We Come to Worship

Opening Prayer

Song ~ CH 259 v 1, 5 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*Call to Worship ~

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

People: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*Song of Advent ~ CH 256 Love Has Come!

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Message for the Children

Song of Advent ~ CH 279 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Advent Reading ~ The Blessing of Home

Leader: Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-45

Reader One: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or

someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

Reader One: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace, it would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know and live blessings. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing in Jesus Christ. It's time to go home.

Song ~ CH 250 v 1-3 O Little Town of Bethlehem

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Our Confession ~ based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

People: O God, we live at times as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

Leader: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

Leader: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not long for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

Leader: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

People: Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It is time that we prepare our hearts for our eternal home. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. 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 250 v 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Congregational Prayer

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

God's Word for Us

*Song ~ CH 249 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading ~ Isaiah 40:9

Message ~ Good News

Prayer

We Depart to Serve

*God's Parting Blessing

*Closing Song ~ CH 258 Go Tell It on the Mountain

RUDYARD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
THE SUNDAY BULLETIN – December 19, 2021

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

Attendants today: Tammy Folkersma, Cherie Rice, Ethan Hoolsema, and Jenelle Hoolsema

Next week: Cynthia English, Allison Cheney, Emma Mitchell, and Liam 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: Amber Tuzinowski, Kyle Postma, and Liam Hoolsema

Next week: Colee Cheney, Meagan Postma, and Bryce Mitchell

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

Offerings today: A.M. – General Fund
P.M. – Crisis Pregnancy Center

Next week: A.M. – General Fund
P.M. – Salvation Army

2021 Amount Budgeted Weekly for

General Fund: \$3638.

December 12 Offering:

General Fund: \$3531.40

THIS WEEK – December 19 - 26

TODAY:

- Christmas Candlelight Service will be at 5 pm. Please bring cookies for a time of fellowship after the service.
- The **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** will meet at the church at 6:30 pm.

FAMILY NEWS

Advance notice:

~ 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. Ballots and Agenda are available at the back of the church for the January 2nd meeting. Copies of the budget will be available next week.

From the Christian School:

~ The Rudyard Christian School will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, January 8, from 8:00 – 10:30 am. Cost is by donation. Come and eat pancakes and sausage and enjoy some great fellowship! We will also have preorders available for your Valentine flower-grams so start thinking of how many you want for your sweetie.

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.