

"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Order of Worship

Morning Service

December 11, 2022 3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

We Come to Worship

Opening Prayer

*Opening Song ~ CH 249 v 1, 2 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Call to Worship ~ based on Psalm 85:7-13, NIV

Leader: Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,

People: and grant us your salvation.

Leader: Listen to what the Lord our God says:

People: He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.

Leader: The Lord will indeed give what is good.

People: Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Leader: May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship. May we see God's face and so know peace. Amen.

*Song of Praise ~ CH 265 v 1, 2, 6 The First Noel

*God's Greeting

*We Greet One Another

Advent Reading ~ The Angel's Message of Peace

Solo ~ Joseph's Song

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Peace

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace. Only Jesus, who came to earth to be our Prince of Peace, can give us peace. In Philippians 4 Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer

and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

People: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Leader: In this peace we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas, and we look forward to Jesus' coming again.

Prayer ~ Dear God, help us to know how close you are to us all the time, and help us to show you and your peace to other people. Amen.

Message for the Children

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Prayer of Confession

Leader: It is Advent, the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

People: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Leader: The rushing and scurrying to get things done; the worry about the little details; the financial burdens we put on ourselves; the impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

People: we confess to you, O God of peace.

Leader: Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

People: Instill within us your peace, O God.

Leader: When we feel overwhelmed; when we are filled with worry; when we become irritable; when the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

People: Fill us with your peace, O God and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. May

we spread Christ's peace and love to others. In His name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

People: Thanks be to God, who comes among us, bringing peace and setting us free to love and serve.

Song ~ CH 292 v 1, 4, 5 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Congregational Prayer

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

God's Word for Us

*Song ~ CH 291 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Scripture Reading ~ Matthew 1:18-25

Message ~ How Can This Be?

Prayer

*Song ~ CH 287 Communion Hymn for Christmas

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

We Depart to Serve

*God's Parting Blessing

*Closing Song ~ CH 737 v 2 Like a River Glorious

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 - HC Q&A1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes

me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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. Come then, to the joyful feast of our Lord! O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

People: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift in Jesus.

The Communion

Our Thanksgiving

Leader: People of God, since the Lord has fed us at his table, let us lift up His Holy name with Thanksgiving.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain who has redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor, glory and power, forever and ever. Amen!

(Rev. 5:12 & 13)

RUDYARD CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
THE SUNDAY BULLETIN – December 11, 2022

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

Attendants today: Marilyn Hoolsema, Laura Schippers, Meagan Postma, and Ashlyn Mitchell

Next week: Laurie Morley, Tammy Folkersma, Kyle Postma, and Trey Ortiz

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: Kathy Borowski, MJ Beelen, and Elsie Mitchell

Next week: Donell Beelen, Raya Morley, and Katie English

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

Offerings today: **A.M. – General Fund** **P.M. – Christian School Program**

Next week: **A.M. – General Fund** **P.M. – Benevolence Fund**

2022 Amount Budgeted Weekly for General Fund: \$3690.

December 4 Offerings:

General Fund: \$3582.06; World Renew: \$200; Missions: \$75; Building Fund: \$734.42; Milk Can: \$79.33.

THIS WEEK – December 11 - 17

TODAY:

- We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during the morning service.
- The Christian School is having their annual children's Christmas program at 4:00 pm. Come for the program and stay afterwards for some fellowship and Chili/Soup supper immediately following the program. Dessert donations for the supper are greatly appreciated. See any board member for questions.

MONDAY:

- The Hiawathaland Community Chorus will be meeting for practice at 6:30 pm.
- **Youth Group** will meet at 7:00 pm.

TUESDAY:

- **Bible Study** will meet at 6:30 pm. We will be studying "Acts, Seeing the Spirit at Work" by John Stott.

WEDNESDAY:

- **Women's Prayer Group** will meet in the Council Room at 10:00 am.
- **Women's Bible Study** will meet at 11:00 in the fellowship room. We will be looking at Lesson 8 on page 39 this week.
- There will be an Elders Meeting at 7:00 pm.

THURSDAY:

- **Council** will meet at 7:00 pm.

SATURDAY:

- The annual Hiawathaland Community Chorus Christmas Concert will be held at 7:00 pm.

FAMILY NEWS

After 34 years of service cleaning our church buildings, Tammy Folkersma is looking to retire the end of December. The Council is taking applications for the church cleaning position-5 to 6 hours per week. Contact Bruce or any council member as soon as possible. Thank-you, Tammy, for 34 years of faithful service.

Christian School:

~The Christian School is going to be having their "Parent's Night Out" events at the RAS gym on Saturday, January 7 and 21 from 4-8pm. We are looking for volunteers to help supervise and play with the children or donate snacks. Look for the sign-up sheet. See any board member for questions.

~ The frozen cookie dough orders are ready for pickup. If your order is not in the church freezer, contact the person you ordered from.

Advance News:

~ The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on December 18 where election of Elders and Deacons will take place. The yearly budget will be presented for approval. The nominations for Elder are: Ken English, Wayne Berkompas, and Al VanSloten. The nominations for Deacon are: Ted Folkersma, Loren Hoolsema, and Wes DeYoung.

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.