
Faith Christian Reformed Church

December 6, 2009

The Second Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship – 9:30 AM

Entering Into His Presence

Prelude

Call to Worship: “Come, Emmanuel” ... Don Besig

Scripture Reading and Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Welcome and God’s Greeting

*Songs of Confession & Worship:

#331:1-3(PH) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“Come, O Redeemer, Come”

Father, enthroned on high—holy, holy
Ancient, Eternal Light, hear our prayer

Lord, save us from the dark, of our striving
Faithless and troubled hearts, weighed down

(chorus)

Come, oh Redeemer, come; grant us mercy
Come, oh Redeemer, come; grant us peace

Look now upon our need; Lord, be with us
Heal us and set us free, from our sin

(By Fernando Ortega; ©1996 Metro Music; CCLI #387557)

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer

Ministry of Music: “Breath of Heaven” ... arr. Lloyd Larson

*Song of Worship: #8 (WC) “All Glory Be to God on High”
(children ages 3 - Kindergarten are dismissed for Children’s Church)

Offertory Prayer

Offering: 1. Timothy Christian Schools.2. Faith Promise Missionaries.

Hearing God’s Word

Scripture: John 1:29-31 *(p. 1050)*

Sermon: **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD**

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

*Song of Worship: "We Will Exalt You"
We will exalt You, O Lord; we will exalt You, O Lord
We will exalt You, O Lord, Emmanuel
(2x)

You are the child born to us; You are God's Son given to us
Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God
You are the child born to us; You are God's Son given to us
Merciful Savior of love, Emmanuel
(By Randy & Terry Butler; ©1990, Mercy Publishing; CCLI #387557)

The Meaning of the Sacrament

Profession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (*p. 3 in the back of the PH*)

The Celebration of Communion

Ministry of Music: "What Child Is This" ... arr. Derek Furch

Song of Worship: #161:1,2,4 (WC) "Once in Royal David's City"
(an offering for the Benevolent Fund will be taken during this song.)

Going Out to Serve

*Benediction

*Doxology: #337:1 (PH)

"Joy to the World!"

Postlude

Worship Leader & Sermon: Dr. Greg Schuringa
Advent Participants: Cathy Canelos and Christina Miedema
Organ: Donna Erdman
Violin: Kristen Voss
Guitar: Mike Printz
Vocals: Carla Printz, Sandy Roelofs
Ministry of Music: Faith Church Choir
JP Rakes, director; Joy Yost, accompanist
Men's Sextet: Mike Sevcik, Mark Hutson,
JP Rakes, Bob Nicodem, Bill Warneke, and Rich Bakker
**Please stand if you are able (PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church)*

Evening Worship ~ 6:00 PM

We Gather

Prelude

*Welcome and God's Greeting

*Song of Praise: #150 (WC)

"What Child Is This?"

*Profession of Faith:

Apostles' Creed (p. 3 in the back of the PH)

Prayer

*Song of Worship: #622 (WC)

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Timothy Christian School

Offertory:

"Canticle of the Holy Night" ... George Crumb

The offertory is taken from a suite of piano pieces related to the Nativity frescoes of Giotto found in the Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy. This particular piece based on the well known *Coventry Carol* contemplates the intertwining of the human and the metaphysical in the birth of Jesus. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1: 14)"

We Listen

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:18-24 (p. 1160)

Sermon:

**THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE, PART VI:
OUR SECRET WEAPON**

Prayer

*Song of Worship: #467:1,3,4 (PH)

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

*Benediction

*Doxology: #340:5 (PH)

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Saints and angels join in praising Thee, the Father, Spirit, Son

Evermore their voices raising to th' Eternal Three in One

Come and worship, come and worship

worship Christ the newborn King

Postlude

Worship Leader & Sermon:

Dr. Greg Schuringa

Piano:

JP Rakes

**Please stand if you are able*

(PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church)

The Warrior's Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Your warrior prepares for battle.
Today I claim victory over Satan by putting on the whole armor of God!

I put on the Belt of Truth!
May I stand firm in the truth of Your Word
so I will not be a victim of Satan's
and his demons' lies.

I put on the breastplate of Righteousness!
May it guard my heart from evil
so I will remain pure and holy,
protected under the blood of Jesus Christ.

I put on the Shoes of Peace!
May I stand firm in the Good News of the Gospel
so Your peace will shine through me
and be a light to all I encounter.

I take the Shield of Faith!
May I be ready for Satan's fiery darts of
doubt, denial and deceit
so I will not be vulnerable to spiritual defeat.

I put on the Helmet of Salvation!
May I keep my mind focused on You
so Satan will not have a stronghold on my
thoughts.

I take the Sword of the Spirit!
May the two edged sword of Your Word
be ready in my hands
so I can expose the tempting words of Satan.

By faith your warrior has put on
the whole armor of God!

I am prepared to live this day, in spiritual victory!
In His most Holy Name, Amen.

Welcome to Faith!

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"
Psalm 122:1

We gather for worship each Sunday morning and evening to glorify God as we grow with others in the love and truth of Christ. Be sure to prepare your heart to meet the Lord in worship and to warmly greet and welcome those around you. Please remember to turn off your cell phone for worship.

Please visit our **Welcome Center** for information about Faith. Welcome cards are available in the pews—please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. After worship, elders are always available by the exits to our worship auditorium for prayer.

For Babies and Moms: a mother's room is available in the south wing so moms can care for their babies in private.

For Children Under 3: infants and toddlers are cared for in two nurseries in our south wing.

Children Ages 3 – Kindergarten are invited to attend Children's Church during our morning worship, where indicated in the order of worship. This is a fun time of singing and Bible teaching led by loving volunteers.

Worship at Faith

In worship this morning we begin a series of sermons in December called "The Christ of Christmas." The focus this morning is on Jesus as the Lamb of God.

The Lord's Supper is being celebrated this morning. If you are not a member of this church and wish to partake of Holy Communion, we extend to you this invitation: If you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and are an adult member of a Bible believing church, we welcome you to join us. Should you prefer grape juice to wine, this can be found in the center cups of each tray.

This evening we conclude a study of the Armor of God in Ephesians. The final part of the Christian soldier's battle equipment is a secret weapon and resource—secret, though essential: prayer.

Upcoming Christmas Worship Opportunities

Note that all these worship services will continue this year's Christmas sermon series, "The Christ of Christmas"

December 13 AM:	"A Shepherd's Tale" Presentation by the Choir
December 13 PM:	Sunday School Christmas Presentation
December 20 AM:	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20 PM:	Candlelight Christmas Worship
December 25, 10 AM:	Christmas Day Worship

Our Church Family

A note from the elders about our Lord's Supper celebrations: The elders recently made a decision that as a church we will continue with the regular times we celebrate Communion on Sunday mornings throughout the year, as well as on Good Friday, but we will no longer have evening Communion celebrations for part of the congregation on the evenings of the Sunday morning celebrations. Instead, we will be adding several evening-only Communion celebrations throughout the year. The first of these will be on January 10 during evening worship. Please prepare your heart for Communion this morning, and keep in mind these additional opportunities to celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a church.

Our most sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Marie Helmus who** passed away on Friday, November 27. Her funeral was held this past Monday.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Ruth Padilla De Borst, one of our missionaries that we support, and her family following the death of her mother, Catherine (Feser) Padilla, who passed away on November 21. May these families find comfort in God's love, peace in His faithfulness.

We are thankful that two high schoolers in our church, **Stephanie Groenewold** and **Kacey Wieringa** are recovering after surgery.

Bob Laning had surgery this past Thursday. Pray for a good recovery.

Ken Rusthoven underwent leg surgery this past Monday. He is making a good recovery.

Remember Chuck Smith and George Vos continuing in knee replacement rehabilitation and recovery and **Peter Tazelaar**, in recovery from cancer surgery on his spine and as the doctors plan chemotherapy treatments.

Please remember to pray for those who are unable to join us in worship. Today we especially think of Harold Lindemulder who lives in Grand Rapids, MI.

Lorraine Hodapp's name and address were missing on the shut-in list that was in your mailboxes last week. Her address is 387 Emroy Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Please remember her during this Holiday season.

Calendar for the Week

Sunday:	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:45 a.m.	Fellowship Hour, Library, Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Catechism, Stephen Ministry, Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Worship Service
Monday:	7:15 p.m.	<i>the gathering</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
	7:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wednesday:	7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
	9:10 a.m.	Bible Study Fellowship
	6:45 p.m.	GEMS
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
Thursday:	9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Sign Language Class

Offerings

Today: AM: 1. Timothy Christian Schools.
2. Faith Promise Missionaries.
PM: Timothy Christian Schools.
Next Week: AM: Faith Benevolent Fund.
PM: CareNet Pregnancy Services of DuPage.

Opportunities to Serve, Grow and Connect

Sunday School and Catechism meet today. Sunday School will be practicing for their Christmas program in the sanctuary until 11:45 AM.

On Monday, November, 30, 2009 several members of the Pastoral Search Committee met with Faith's Council to provide them with a status update on the search process for a Minister of Congregational Life. The search committee met for several hours on November 24, 2009 to discuss three applicants who came in on consecutive weekends in November. Based upon the feedback from the congregation, the interviews conducted by the search committee, and the interactions the search committee members had with the three pastors, we have decided that we will no longer be considering Rev. Jesse Powell or Rev. Michael Borgert for this position. The search committee will be conducting a follow-up interview with Rev. Michael Laird on Tuesday, December 8. Based upon the outcome of that interview we will either make a recommendation to Council to extend a call to Rev. Laird or we will no longer consider him, and continue the search process. Please pray for God's continued wisdom and guidance.

The first ever Holiday Pie Fundraiser is happening as you read these words! Interested in purchasing a pie for Christmas dinner? *The gathering* is selling Sara Lee pies from GFS as a fundraiser for their upcoming serve project to Honduras. If you are interested in helping out *the gathering* while buying some delicious dessert, locate a high school student nearest to you and order one! Today is your last day to order!

The gathering is meeting tonight following the evening service. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR PIE ORDERS ARE DUE!!!!

The Executive Committee will meet on Monday at 7:00 PM, followed by the Elders at 7:30 PM.

GEMS will meet at church from 6:45-8:45 PM on Wednesday.

The congregation is invited to pick a paper ornament from The Giving Tree/Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall today. On the ornament will be listed a gift need. Please purchase the listed item, wrap the gift and tape the paper ornament to the package. **Please return the present to the Giving Tree/Angel Tree next Sunday, by the morning service of December 13.** Deacons and volunteers will distribute the gifts before Christmas.

The congregation is invited to decorate The Giving Tree/Angel Tree with items that will benefit our guests at the PADS program. Suggested items include adult size socks, hats, and gloves. These unwrapped items may be placed on the tree on Sunday, December 13.

Seniors are cordially invited by Christ Church of Oak Brook to a Christmas Luncheon at Drury Lane on Wednesday, December 9, from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. A wonderful lunch will be served followed by a program with special music. The cost of this event is \$30.00. Please sign up in the narthex no later than Sunday, December 6. For more information please feel free to contact Nancy Velon, 630-455-1112.

Attention Junior Highers!!! Our next event will take place on Saturday, December 12. We will meet at the church at 6:00 PM and then head over to the Brookfield Zoo for a rousing Digital Photo Scavenger Hunt during their Holiday Magic! The cost is \$10. Sign up **TODAY** so that we can figure out transportation. Please make sure you eat before you arrive.

The Council is calling a special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 13, 2009, following the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to present the findings and recommendation of the Council's Parsonage Task Force and consider motions from Council to implement the recommendation. You will find material in your church mailbox detailing the Parsonage Task Force's report and recommendation for your review prior to the December 13 meeting.

Calling all instrumentalists! The Music Committee would like to invite you to play during the Christmas morning service. If you would be willing to share your talents and play in a group with other musicians during this service, please contact Cathy Geers, cathygeers@aol.com or 630-852-7295. The only rehearsal will be on Christmas morning before the service.

The gathering is excited to announce our winter retreat for 2010! From January 29-31, we will be headed up to Expeditions Unlimited in Baraboo, WI. This year, each student will have the opportunity to go skiing/snowboarding as well! Brochures can be found on the sign-up table in the narthex. Cost varies depending on whether you want to go skiing/snowboarding. You must register by January 24!

The Junior High Group is also excited to announce our Winter Retreat! Like last year, we will be headed up to The Wilderness Water Resort in the Wisconsin Dells from Feb. 5-7! Brochures and information can be found on the sign in table. Space is limited! Your registration and deposit guarantee a spot! Registration closes on Sunday, January, 31, so sign up soon!

For over twenty years the January Series of Calvin College has been the leading lecture/cultural arts series in the country. This year Faith CRC of Elmhurst will present all the programs from the January Series. These live presentations from Calvin College will be simulcast to Faith CRC from 11:20 AM – 12:30 PM. Start planning now to spend your days in January at Faith CRC. The series begins on Wednesday, January 6, and continues Monday through Fridays, concluding on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. For complete schedule and line-up of speakers go to the Calvin College January Series 2010 website, <http://www.calvin.edu/january/>. Think of friends and neighbors who you could invite!

Honduras Serve Project 2010! We are in the process of preparing for our next Honduras Serve Trip. The dates for this upcoming trip are January 30 – February 6, 2010. We will be serving Hogar de Niños, our orphanage in Comayagua. This trip fills up quickly. Please contact Allen Heerema, Lambert Bronger, or Bob Venhousen, Jr. if you are interested or if you have questions.

Crossroad Bible Institute thanks Instructor Evelyn Wieringa for her 5 years of service. God has used her faithfulness to see lives eternally changed, and CBI is tremendously thankful to her for her perseverance in reaching those who are cast aside and forgotten by many. We at CBI pray that God will enable them to continue this good work for many years to come!

Serving Faith Church

Greeters

Today

Henry & Colleen Bos
Brent & Linda Van Dyk

Next Week

Pete & Nancy Boer
Cliff & Ruth Marquardt

Kitchen

Today

Bob & Jeri Cook
Rich & Cheryl Miedema

Next Week

Ed & Kim Biesboer
Ken & Jan Van Byssum

Library

Today

Jayne Lindemulder
Theresa Woldman

Next Week

Nancy Boer
Sharon Herlien

Saratoga Driver

Today

Ted Vander Naald

Next Week

Ron Tazelaar

Coffee Servers

Today

Robert & Sharon Herlien

Next Week

Jack & Annette Heerd

Audio Visual

Today

Steve De Boer
Stephanie Huizinga

Next Week

Eric Glaubke
Brian Voss
Steve Folkerts
Colin Middel

AM Nursery-Infant

Today

Val Smits
Sarah Wilson
Cassidy Bulthuis
Brittany Middel
Kendall Evenhouse

Next Week

Cathy Bulthuis
Jen Bernahl
Kaitlin Belitz
Kristin Belitz
Megan Evenhouse

AM Nursery-Toddler

Today

Jill Groenewold
Susan Middel
Megan Middel
Sydney Bulthuis

Next Week

Melinda Tuinstra
Karen Folkerts
Katherine Belitz
Emily De Boer

PM Nursery

Today

Melissa Lehmann
Alexis Hoogendoorn

Next Week

Bethany Voss
Linnea Venhousen

2009 – 2010 ELDER/DEACON DISTRICTS

DISTRICT: ELDER/DEACON

Church Members:

Allen, Brian – Braun, Janet
Britton, Brigitte – De Vries, John
De Vries, Peter – Frank, Dylan
Fries, Carrie - Hoekstra, Tom
Holtrop, James - Kieft, Betty
Kim, Melvin - Loerop, Tim
Loerop, Robert – Plowman, Kevin
Poltrock, Lesley – Segovia, Will
Skrysak, Irv - Tazelaar, Ronald
Tazelaar, Sylvia - VanTholen, Peter Jr.
Van Tholen, Robert (Sr.) - Voss, Henry
Voss, Kristen- Zuidema, Paul
Out of Town - Rest / Retirement

Homes

Elder/Deacon team:

Bern Slinkman/Clarence Klaassens
Herm Vander Naald/Bill Hoving
Ken Rusthoven/Steve David
Henry Bos/Matt Bulthuis
Chuck Slinkman/Brad Miedema
Doug Engbers/Randy Van Dahm
Ed Biesboer/Darrell Stodola
Tim Huiner/Gerrit Wieringa
Ken Wiltjer/Randy Heerd
Pete Holtrop/Al Miedema
Andy Venhousen/Ryan Huisman
Bob Cook/Mike Printz
Brent Van Dyk /Matt Huizinga

Announcements from our Ministry Partners

Buona Beef Benefit night (LOMBARD) for Timothy Christian School on Tuesday, December 8. Sales from any time of the day will help, BUT you must have a PRINTED FLYER. You can print one out from Timothy's web site. You can even use the flyer in the drive-through if you don't want to get out of your car. 15-25% will be donated back to TCS. See you there!

Entertainment Coupon Books for Sale. Timothy Partners in Education (PiE) is again selling coupon books for \$20.00 through December 11 to benefit Timothy School. You can save money on shopping, eating out, traveling, entertainment, and sports. You can make up the cost using just a few coupons, and then save even more using others. Coupons are good for a year, and you can start using them November 1. See a sample book on the information table. Sign up for a copy. Get your payment to Diana DeBoer, and she will get you one. Chicago West/Central, North/Northwest, or South/Southwest editions are available in the elementary, high school, and business offices at Timothy.

The Agape Ringers would like to invite you and your congregation to our 12th Annual Sounds of the Season concert on December 12th at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church in Elmhurst. The Agape Ringers are Chicago's premiere handbell ensemble and have many members based out of the western suburbs. Our guest artist is Yang Wei, an international performer on the pipa instrument, and we very excited to combine these eastern and western musical instruments!

Dordt College announces a new learning vacation to be held June 6-11, 2010. Join Dordt professors Jim Schaap and Robb De Haan as they lead their third Great Plains Experience, this time on the "Prairie's Edge." The motorcoach tour begins and ends in Sioux Center at Dordt, and takes in a wide spectrum of topics including wind energy, changes in farming practices, the 1862 Sioux Indian Uprising, and lifestyles in small, rural communities. You'll visit places in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota that most tourists will never find. That's the adventure! For a brochure or more information, contact Dianne De Wit, 712-722-6029 or ddewit@dordt.edu.

Crossroad Connection, the web radio ministry of CBI is available to listen to at www.cbi.fm. Each month Crossroad Connection has more great messages, interviews, letters from prison and more as a voice for restorative justice. This month's features are Tell the World that Jesus Lives!, Let Me Bless You!, Christmas Letters from Prison, and CBI Broadcast News.

Spend part of your winter in sunny New Mexico! Rehoboth Christian School is seeking volunteers for a variety of positions. Please call Abbie at 505-726-9603.

Chicago Christian Counseling Center is offering a support group, **Waiting in Still Waters**, for couples sharing the struggle of infertility. The group is facilitated by Rev. Marj Kooy, MDiv, BCC, and will meet in our Orland Park office the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month beginning November 4, 2009 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Cost \$25/session per couple. For registration/more info call 708-845-5500 or go online at www.chicagochristiancounseling.org



When the Entire World is Rejoicing, Why Am I the Only One in Pain?

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy, but for many people it brings only sadness and painful memories. A Stephen Minister can provide extra support and a listening ear during this difficult season. To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, speak to pastor Schuringa and tell him about your situation. He will help you decide whether a Stephen Minister would be beneficial for you.

Or

You may have already decided that Stephen Ministry is the right choice for your needs; just call our Referrals Coordinator, Dorothy Vanerka at 630-655-0084 for your confidential consultation.

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests,
but also to the interests of others.*

– Philippians 2:4

