

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473

Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020



Welcome...

Advent, which means "the coming," is a time when we wait expectantly for the celebration of Jesus' First Coming at Christmas. For Christians in the Northern Hemisphere, Advent comes at the coldest and darkest time of the year.

During Advent....

- ✚ we light candles each Sunday to remind us that darkness doesn't last forever,
- ✚ we sing carols of hope and joy to remind us that our tears do not define us,
- ✚ we share the warmth of Christian fellowship to remind us that loneliness will not last, and
- ✚ we wait, we work, we cry, we pray, we ache, always knowing that Jesus is coming to make things right and end all sorrow.

Come wait with us. Our doors are open to all who wait and all who need hope.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Joanne Hoeksema

"Carols of Joy and Wonder"

Prelude – "Es ist ein Ros"

"Yuletide Joyeux"

Lighting the Candle of Love

Jonathan VanderWoude and Eric Pradelski

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Pastor Corey Buchanan

*Congregational Singing

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

"We Have A Savior"

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jim Oord

Song of Assurance/Response/Preparation

"Once in Royal David's City"

THE WORD OF GOD

Song of Response

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Scripture

Isaiah 22

Sermon

"It's Hard to Wait: Waiting for the Key to Unlock What is Hidden"

Chorus of Response

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Offering

*Doxology

"What Child Is This?"

*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

*Sending in Grace

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Postlude

"How Great Our Joy!"

*Those who are able please stand.

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a cup of conversation.

UP & COMING AT FIRST...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

GREETERS: Don & Gerri VanBaren, Lucas VanderWoude, Liam VanderWoude, Alison VanderWoude, and Deb Woltzen

USHERS: Gwen Adams, Russ Paarlberg, Ron Rietveld, Mike Spitz, Trina Taylor, and Steve VanderWoude

MUSIC TEAM: Julia Keep, Austin Parks, Matthew Rietveld, and Rachel Wooley

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Amy Veldboom

PROJECTION: Tiffany Buchanan

VIDEO: Keith Flowers

A Special Time of Celebrating the Story and Songs of Christmas!

For those who are comfortable joining us in person, we will be hosting two viewing sessions in the sanctuary: 3:00PM and 6:00PM.

GREETERS: Rodger Norris, Cindy Nylen, and Don & Gerri VanBaren

USHERS: Andy DeBoer, Don & Nyla DeGraff, and Jim & Bonnie DeGroot

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00AM: Trustees meet in the Heritage Room

7:00PM: Music Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

GREETERS: Don VanBaren, Trina Taylor, Alison VanderWoude, Lucas VanderWoude, and Liam VanderWoude

USHERS: Deb Oord, Ray Ondrejka, Russ Paarlberg, Ron Rietveld, Steve VanderWoude, and Mike Spitz

MUSIC TEAM: Kim Bolkema, Dacia Hill, Nick Paarlberg, and Matthew Rietveld

ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema

PIANO: Pastor Jim Oord

PROJECTION: Felicia Flowers

VIDEO: Eric Pradelski

CARE...

Wayne and Joyce Deinema both have been diagnosed with COVID. Joyce had a bad fall and is in Munster Community Hospital.

Ralph Paarlberg has been admitted to Riverside Hospital due to COVID and a urinary tract infection.

Dorothy Ravesloot has returned home after being with family while she recuperated from some injuries.

Christopher Nelson, son of Craig and Jan Nelson, continues needing prayer as he struggles with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Marla Owens continues at Great Lakes Nursing Home in Dyer.

Leona Jacobs fell and fractured her hip. She is at Elmhurst hospital and had the bone set and her pain is being managed.

Dottie VanVuren's son, **Brian**, had testing done for a recurring problem on his lip. Pray for good results and a treatment plan.

Jean Schultz, mother of Deb Woltzen, was able to return to Deb and Dennis's home.

Joy Poulos, daughter of Clarence & Judy Brouwers, is under doctors' care as her lymphoma has come back. A treatment plan is being decided upon.

Chad and Dara VandenBosch, our missionaries in Mozambique, need your prayers as they await a final court date with their adoption of Zinha.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: Viola VanDam, Providence Downers Grove, Room 50, 3450 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDING CAMPAIGN 2020...



AS INDOOR WORSHIP HAS RESUMED and Faith & Fellowship Formation ministries are starting up again, it is a great time to be a part of our First Church Family. The deacons would like to encourage all members to continue

your faithful support of the ministry of First Reformed Church through your tithes and your donations. Currently, we need to complete raising funds to pay for the renovation work that was done in the parsonage. We are approaching the halfway point, but we still need to raise \$65,450.94 to add to the \$59,427.46 that has been raised thus far. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

SERMON NOTES...

Isaiah 22

“It’s Hard to Wait: Waiting for the Key to Unlock What is Hidden”

Pastor Jim Oord

WORSHIP...

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020: "Advent" is the beginning of the Church Calendar, a period of longing and preparing for Christmas. "Advent" means "waiting," and doesn't that feel appropriate for the way things are in our world right now? We are all waiting for this pandemic to be over, waiting for restrictions to be lifted, waiting for life to return to normal. Our Advent sermon series continues today, **Sunday, December 13**, and is appropriately titled "**It's Hard to Wait.**" We are praying that we will meet the Jesus who answers our longings and gives us wisdom and strength to wait with hope.

Here are some Advent & Christmas Dates to keep in mind:

TODAY at 3:00pm & 6:00pm

A special evening celebrating the story and songs of Christmas!

Thursday, December 24 at 11:00pm

Christmas Eve service

Sunday, January 3 at 9:30am

Tolling of the Bells service

OUR GIFTS...

Sunday, December 6

Basket Total: \$7,227.25

Online Total: \$2,685.00

Special Projects: \$1,000.00

Giving Total: \$10,912.25

(Needed Weekly: \$11,250.00)

Thanksgiving Offering

Chicagoland Prison Outreach: \$979.00, Exodus: \$624.00,

Elim Christian Services: \$750.00, PASS: \$395.00, Calvin Christian School: \$50.00

There are several ways to bring your gifts to the church:

- Online
- Mail
- Bring to church office
- Put them in the mailbox right outside of the church office door

CHURCH LIFE...

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Charles Detmar who passed on Tuesday, December 8.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is also extended to the families of Griff Decker and Ramelle DeVries, on the passing of their stepdad Jeff Steenbergen in California on Sunday, December 6.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is also extended to the family and friends of Don Spiekhout who passed on Saturday, December 5,

THE QUILTERS AND KNITTERS have temporarily suspended their meeting together. More information will follow when they decide to meet again.

OFFERING ENVELOPES have been issued for 2021 and are in your mail slots. If you should have any questions, please contact Griff Decker at 708-710-0111.

THE SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE'S annual Christmas concert cannot be held this year due to COVID-19. However, beginning this **Saturday, December 5**, the Chorale is gifting the community with a recording of last year's Christmas concert. Go to the South Holland weekly update email to watch the video any time from December 5-31.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION will be held **Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021**. This celebration honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with song and scripture. The program this year will be live streamed. More details will be coming soon.

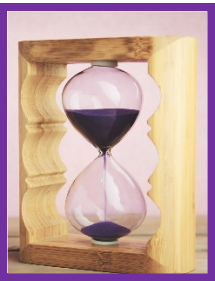
LEARNING OPPORTUNITES...

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: There will be no Sunday School on December 27, January 3, and January 10 for Christmas Break.

THE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY finished up their last session for the fall. The 2021 session will begin on **Tuesday, January 12**, with the study, "Jonah, Navigating A Life Interrupted" by Priscilla Shirer.

SECRETARIES' COVID OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM – NOON / Monday – Friday



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STAFF...

Rev. James Oord
Senior Pastor

Pastor Corey Buchanan
Associate Pastor

Dr. Anthony Bolkema
Pastor of Worship & Ministry

Rev. Dr. Rich Grevengoed
Pastor of Care & Visitation

Nyla DeGraff
Church Administrator

Gerri VanBaren
Administrative Assistant

Steve Alexander
Church Custodian

Jane Ackerman
Church Accountant

Darcy Daly
Nursery Coordinator

Toni Smith
Director of Family Life Christian
Pre-School & Day Care

Visit us online at www.frcsh.org

To get to know you better, please fill out our **Welcome Card** in the pew and place it in the offering plate. If you want more information about the life of First Church, make sure to include your email address.