

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
of SOUTH HOLLAND  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Communion Sunday, December 3, 2023



*Welcome to First Reformed Church!*

We are currently observing the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival;" it is a period of preparation as the church lives in expectation and hope for the coming of Jesus.

This year, we are going to be placing ourselves in the shoes (or sandals) of God's people in the Old Testament, waiting for the coming Christ with the minor prophets. The stained-glass windows on the southern wall of the sanctuary use symbols representing the four major prophets (window by the piano) and twelve minor prophets.

Today's window represents the prophet Habakkuk using the symbol of the temple, recalling Habakkuk's call to worship.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
Communion Sunday, December 3, 2023  
WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*  
*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*  
*"Who is He in Yonder Stall?"*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Opening Hymn

*"Advent Trilogy"* – Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Hope Candle

*"I'm Waiting"*

Time of Silence

Pastor Jim Oord  
*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim Oord

Greeting One Another

Congregational Singing

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*  
*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture

Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:3, 2:20

Sermon

"Minor Prophets, Major Good News – Waiting in Silence"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*"A Communion Hymn for Christmas"*

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Corey Buchanan

Offertory

*"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

\*Doxology

*"Christmas Doxology"*

\*Benediction

Pastor Jim Oord

\*Sending in Grace

*"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

\*Postlude

Joanne Hoeksema

\*Those who are able please stand.

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

## *UP & COMING AT FIRST...*

### COMMUNION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**GREETERS:** Rodger Norris and Don VanBaren

**WELCOME CENTER:** Gerri VanBaren

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Nolan Bolkema, Kim Bolkema, Daniel Day, and Peter & Julia Keep

**PROJECTION:** Felicia Flowers; **VIDEO:** Eric Pradelski; **SOUND:** Rhonda Hesselink

**ORGAN:** Joanne Hoeksema

**PIANO:** Amy Veldboom

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Julia Keep

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Noreen VanDeursen and Russ & Heidi Paarlberg

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Laurel DeGraff, Sherry Norris, and Nikki Nyhanna

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

**11:00AM:** Funeral Service for Rachel Wooley in the Sanctuary

**6:00PM:** Bell Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall

**7:00PM:** Music Team Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

**7:30AM:** ACT meeting in the Heritage Room

**6:00PM:** First Christmas Party/Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

**5:00 -8:00PM:** Angels of Hope in the Fellowship Hall

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

**9:00 -11:00AM:** Clothing Closet in the Activity Center

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

**GREETERS:** Jim DeGroot and Cindy Nylen; **WELCOME CENTER:** Nyla DeGraff

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Bill Nyhanna, Nikki Nyhanna & Nick Paarlberg

**PROJECTION:** Izzy Veldboom; **VIDEO:** Keith Flowers; **SOUND:** Lucas Bolkema

**ORGAN:** Steve DeVries; **PIANO:** Joanne Hoeksema

**NURSERY:** Darcy Daly and Amber Fransen

**COFFEE SERVERS:** Don & Nyla DeGraff and Don & Gerri VanBaren

**COOKIE VOLUNTEERS:** Megan DeYoung, Raylene Oord, and Katie Sikkema

## *CARE...*

**Rich Zimmerman** suffered a heart attack and is anticipating open heart surgery soon.

**Jean Spiekhout** is at Community Stroke and Rehab Center in Crown Point, Room 3012 for therapy.

**Monty Riddering** is home recovering from a 2<sup>nd</sup> hip replacement surgery she had November 29.

**Shirley Van Deursen** continues at Park Place, Room #106 for rehab.

**Dorothy Jacobsma** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery she had Wednesday, October 25.

**Kathy Oord, Trina Taylor, and Christopher Nelson** continue with their treatments for cancer.

**Ruth DeBoer** is in rehab at Hartsfield Village recovering from a broken elbow.

**Alice Kats** continues in hospice care in her home.

**Daniel Pletzke**, son-in-law of Ron & Diana Abernathy, continues to recover from heart issues. Ron and Diane's daughter **Debra** is recovering from a heart procedure.

Please pray for the **Costello family**: for **Sean**, who continues to regain strength and is now able to walk with the use of a cane; for **Mike**, who is recuperating at home from his heart surgery complications; and for **Pam**, who is trusting God to uphold, strengthen, and provide for her and the family during this time.

**OUR EXTENDED FAMILY:** Lois VanVuren, Symphony of Dyer, Room C201, 1532 Calumet Ave., Dyer, IN 46311

## *OUR GIFTS...*

### Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22

Chicagoland Prison Outreach: \$1,354.37; Roseland Christian Ministries: \$843.29

Restoration Ministries: \$723.29; Giving Total: \$2,920.95

### Sunday, November 26

Basket Total: \$4,327.00; Online Total: \$1,057.40

Giving Total: \$5,384.40; (Needed Weekly: \$11,500.00)

Reach 175: \$429.56

## *ON DUTY FOR DECEMBER...*

**First Emergency:** Mary Decker; **First Security:** Colin Cutler

## CHURCH LIFE...

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Rachel Wooley, who passed away on Sunday, November 19. The visitation is today from 3:00-8:00pm at Smits Funeral Home in Dyer and the funeral is Monday, December 4, at 11:00am here at First Reformed Church with a luncheon to follow. The family asks that, if possible, those attending the service on Monday could wear pink or red, two of Rachel's favorite colors.

**Thank you** for the prayers, meals, phone calls, cards, and all the support you've offered throughout our family's journey. As Rachel struggled with cancer and now as we mourn her loss, we appreciate everything you've done and everything that you're continuing to do. - Robert, Aaron, and Benjamin Wooley

**THE FIRST CHURCH LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** will meet on **Tuesday, December 12**, at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookie Exchange and Packing Party at this time. Please bring a batch of homemade or store-bought goodies to gift to our sweet friends. We will also review our findings in Session 3, workbook pgs. 59-72. Hope to see you there!



### THE CHOSEN, SEASON 2 OPPORTUNITY!

We invite you to come out every other Wednesday to watch *The Chosen, Season 2* together. *The Chosen* is a carefully researched and well-made dramatization of the life of Jesus as told in the biblical gospels. This study concludes on **Wednesday, December 13**, and will include a meal

at 6:00pm. The episode screening will be followed by discussion and a deeper dig into the Bible's stories of the life of Jesus. Please sign up at the Welcome Centers.

**THIS YEAR** we are again partnering with Chicagoland Prison Outreach in the Angels of Hope Christmas project. Thank you for your support in helping with the children of inmates. **Today is the return date for the angel tree gifts!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** continues today at 11:10am.

- K-5th grade meet in the Genesis Room at 11:10am, followed by K-2nd class in the library; 3rd-5th in the Loft.
- 6th-12th grade meet in the chapel at 11:10am.
- Tibstra House meets in the Heritage Room immediately following the service.

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES TO NOTE:

- ✚ **Wednesday, December 6**, come join us at 6:00pm for our (third) First Christmas Party. This will be a soup supper potluck and party with our church family. **If you are willing to share your favorite soup (and soon to be ours!), please sign up at a welcome center.**
- ✚ **Sunday, December 10**, at 6:00pm, join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols, a musical celebration of the story of Jesus' arrival. If you love Christmas music, you won't want to miss it!
- ✚ **Wednesday, December 13**, our last Chosen Bible study will be from 6:00-7:30pm. Includes a meal and followed by an episode screening with discussion.
- ✚ **Sunday, December 24**, join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am and our Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm. This service is always a highlight of the year, as we stay up and greet Christmas Day with carols, candlelight, and worship (and we just might bring back the sparklers!).

## REMINDERS....

**PLEASE KEEP THE PARKING AREA** that is lined in the front and on the north side of the church - which is closest to the elevator - available for those who have difficulty walking. Thank you!

**VISIT THE WELCOME CENTER** in the narthex to sign cards for our shut-ins and hospitalized.

**PLEASE CONTACT** the church office if you know of a friend or family member who has been admitted to the hospital.

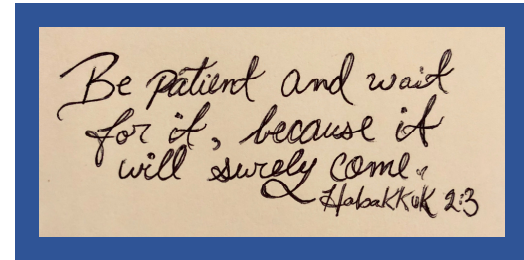
***SERMON NOTES...***

**“Minor Prophets, Major Good News – Waiting in Silence”**

**Habakkuk 1:12 – 2:3, 2:20**

**Pastor James Oord**

**PRAYER ROOM:** Need a word of encouragement or someone to pray with? Come to the prayer room after church until 11am. It is located outside the double doors west of the Chapel. A team of dedicated volunteers would welcome the opportunity to pray with you this morning.



**15924 South Park Avenue • South Holland, IL 60473**

**Office: 708.333.0622 • Prayer Line: 708.333.8150**

**E-mail: [office@frcsh.org](mailto:office@frcsh.org)**

**SECRETARIES' OFFICE HOURS**

**9:00AM – NOON / Monday – Friday**

**STAFF...**

**Rev. James Oord**

*Senior Pastor*

**Pastor Corey Buchanan**

*Associate Pastor*

**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](http://www.frcsh.org)**

Find us in the app store by searching for  
"First Reformed Church South Holland" or by visiting [get.theapp.co/1779](http://get.theapp.co/1779).



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.