Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness



shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Welcome Alice denHollander

#### Moment of silent meditation Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

## Silent prayer

God of Advent, of waiting and hoping, Keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.

God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing, Make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.

God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known, Fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory That we have seen in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

# Call to worship

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

# The First Noel

The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Refrain Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel!

Then wise men from a country far looked up and saw a guiding star; they travelled on by night and day

to reach the place where Jesus lay: Refrain

At Bethlehem they entered in, on bended knee they worshipped him; they offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; Who has made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life has bought:

# New Testament Reading II Corinthians 5:17-21

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Refrain

Refrain



#### Prayer of Invocation for the New Year

Dear God, we praise you for making all things new. Thank you that you are with us throughout everything you've allowed into our lives this past year, both the easy and the hard things. We need you and rely on your presence to fill us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us on each step of this year. Guide our decisions and turn our hearts to desire you above all else. Give us courage and peace when your answer to our prayers is "no," "not yet" or "wait." May we pursue you first, who is truly the desire of our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, strength and power to be constantly present within us. Give us abilities beyond what we feel possible; let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would give us wisdom to discern when we need to run, and when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. May your mighty hand cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy. Give us discernment and insight to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

Forgive us for working so hard to be self-sufficient and for forgetting our need for you. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds. Forgive us for allowing pride and selfishness to wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for hiding from your presence.

We confess our need of you: fresh and yet again! As you are making all things news, be merciful to us! Refresh our hearts, minds and lives in this coming year.

Keep your words of truth planted firmly within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the humility to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us of our failings, may your voice speak louder and stronger that you forgive us through Christ.

Help us to be known as great givers: generous and kind. May we look to the needs of others and not be consumed by our own only. Holy Spirit, fill us so that your fruit is evident in our lives: your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We praise you for your presence. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes, that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

#### GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

#### Call to confession

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."



Prayer of confession followed by silent confession

## **Declaration of forgiveness**

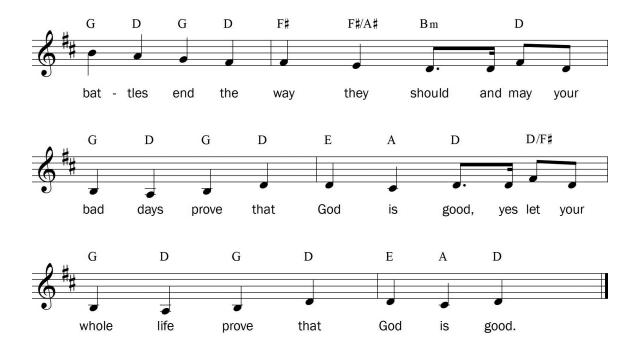
Psalm 73:23-26

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

# God is Good

Jonathan McReynolds





## GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!





Main theme: The incarnation of Jesus motivates us to live Kingdom saturated lives.

Our Mood

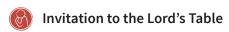
Our Message

Our Mission

## Father, Let Your Kingdom Come

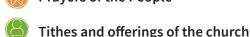


## **Epiphany Testimony**Christa Fernando



Pastor Andrew VanderMaas Gather bread and juice/wine and use the video to celebrate.





It is our tradition to highlight the deacons' fund on the first Sunday of the month. There is an option to support that ministry on the online giving form.

#### **Offertory** Gesu Bambino solo

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snow upon a winter night Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O Come let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its king of love and light Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell



Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heavenly host Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### Worship musicians

Guerra family (*The First Noel; God is God*) Bethany Morse (*Father, Let Your Kingdom Come*) Scofield Family (*Doxology*) Offertory: Sarah Griffioen, solo Susan Guerra, piano

Cover Art Frank Gutbrod (former attender)

**Today is Deacon Fund Sunday.** Take this opportunity to serve those in need. This offering, beyond your regular tithe, should be marked for the Deacon Fund.

The Creative during COVID books are here and available in the foyer. Please place a checkmark by your name if you pick yours up (one per household). We will also be finding creative ways to get books out to people who are not able to come in.

Together in Prayer will resume on Wednesdays 7-8pm on Zoom. Register here to receive the new Zoom link: https://christ-churchgr.breezechms.com/form/a6494a Let's do the work of prayer together. Our world needs us to pray.

Missions Committee is meeting Thursday, January 7 at 6:30pm.

George & Nan Dykstra had their 50th wedding anniversary this past week.

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

Bible Studies (via Zoom)

- Mon, 7pm James Study
   Jerry Stutzman will lead the discussion.
- Wed, 6:30am Isaiah Study contact Bob LaFleur at lafleur1@comcast.net

Fellowship Breakfasts have been consolidated and moved to a virtual format on Tuesdays, at 8:30. Contact Greg Meibeyer for details.

Thank you to Nichole Lammers, Alice den Hollander, Gladys Weirenga, Joy Juries, Cheryl La Fleur, the session and all my beloved Christ Church family for the love shown to me to mark my twenty years of service here. God has been so good to us all. It is a privilege and an honor to work among you; Christ Church has been a safe place for me to be sanctified and grow and it's just such a joy to make music with you all to worship our merciful God. With a grateful heart and great affection ~ Susan Guerra

## YOUTH

#### Jr High

This Wednesday the 6th we are meeting for small groups, join us at 7:00; check email for how to join the meeting

## Sr High

Small groups meet tonight (Sunday) from 7:00-8:00. Details about how we are meeting were sent via email.

## Financial Report

January - November Receipts January - November Expenses January - November Over (Under)	<b>ACTUAL</b> \$ 833,427 \$ 802,365 <b>\$ 31,061</b>	<b>BUDGET</b> \$809,220 \$809,220 <b>\$</b>
Tithes and Offerings December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27	\$ 21,256 \$ 25,428 \$ 29,222 \$ 28,230	
December Total Tithes & Offerings Advent offering	<b>\$104,686</b> \$ 10,499	\$ 80,735

## WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

#### Hinged@Home Participants:

Register at hingedathome.pcacdm.org to get access to the speakers. Click on register and fill out all the information. *Do not pay*. Click on "coupon code". You should have received a code via email from your small group leader that will cover payment.

Folders are still available in the church foyer. We are still waiting on the Ephesians journals and will figure a way to get those to you. Groups begin meeting this week. If you have not heard from a small group leader, or have questions contact Cheryl at lafleur1@comcast.net or 616 915-5488.

Spring Semester Bible Study will focus on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We'll be meeting in small groups via zoom or in person. Details will follow. We may need a few more small group facilitators. If you have interest, contact Cheryl at lafleur1@comcast. net or 616 915-5488.

#### **Building Expansion Update**

The mason finished up, the steel was delivered and has begun to be erected. Interior renovations have started and framing will happen soon in the kitchen and women's bathroom, plus plumbing for a new family restroom will go in. The main doors of the church will not be accessible Mon, Jan 4th - Fri, Jan 22nd. Enter through the north or south doors. Handicapped parking is still on the north end of the building, a temporary wheelchair ramp has been installed. We thank God for perfect building weather, a great team on site, and quick progress so far!



Campaign Goal
Pledged & Received
Funds Received
Number of Pledges
Progress
Matching Gifts Received

\$1,600,000 \$1,602,215 \$931,259 157 100% \$144,346 (15.5% Exceeded challenge)

**GOAL EXCEEDED** by





2500 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 • 616-949-9630 www.christchurchgr.org • office@christchurchgr.org Worship Onsite Sunday mornings at 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am, or by Zoom at 9:00am

Office hours: Call or email ahead as we comply with MI Health Department recommendations.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Tuesday to prayer@christchurchgr.org **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Wednesday to announcements@christchurchgr.org