

PONDERING A
TREASURE





Welcome to worship at Christ Church!

Our aim is to enjoy the goodness of our triune God in fellowship within the community he has formed, lifting our hearts as an offering to the Lord using the varied and unique gifts of this local congregation. We await his transformative word in our lives.

We are glad that you have joined us.

Young children are an important part of our community as well. We are very happy to be part of this very significant stage in their lives — learning to worship together in the community of believers. You are welcome to keep your children with you throughout the service, or you may choose to use one of our nurseries for children ages 3 years and younger, and Christ Kids Worship for 4- to 6-year olds during the sermon. If you have a baby and would like a quiet space, you are welcome to use the nursery or room 102.

Prelude *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* instrumental

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Advent Wreath The Hope Candle

One Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ.
More and more candles, more and more light,
as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

All **God of Promise, come into our darkness.
Renew your hope within us,
for you alone bring life out of death.**

One Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 33:
The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

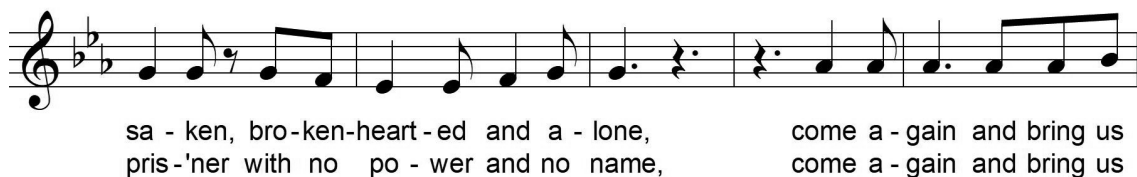
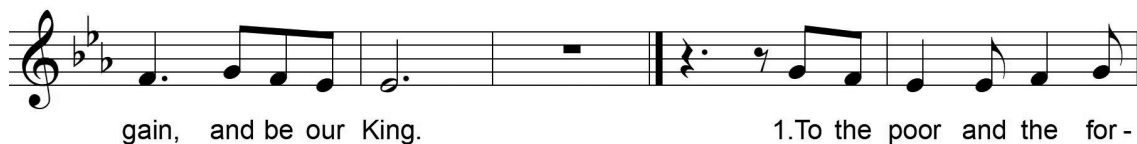
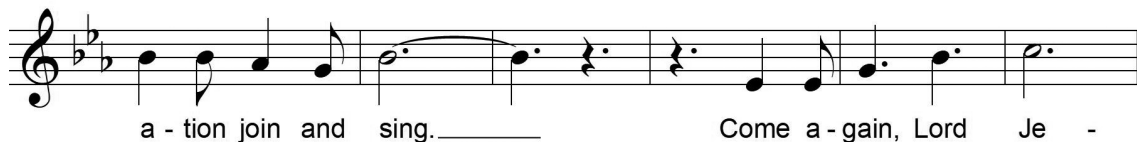
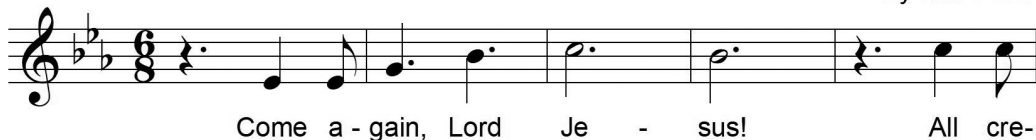
All **We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.**

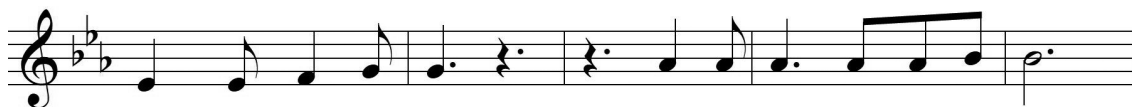
Advent Wreath Readings: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love © 2013 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

** Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

Come Again, Lord Jesus

by Kirk Ward





Lamb u - pon the throne.
lost sheep to re - claim.

Come a - gain and bring us PEACE.
Come a - gain and bring us LOVE.



As you came__ be - fore__ Je-sus come__ a - gain, Oh, we



need__ you Lord__ to please come__ a - gain.

CCLI 332344

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to worship

Psalm 64:9 NIV

Elder Jerry Stutzman

All people will fear;
they will proclaim the works of God
and ponder what he has done.

*** Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Trinity Hymnal 162

*** Invocation**

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession Ephesians 3:14-19

...I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness Galatians 4:4-5

...when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

8:30 service: *During the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

10:30 service: *Church bags are available in the foyer.*

* Come Light Our Hearts

Sandra McCracken





GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Luke 1:26–45

^{1:26} In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon Mary's Faith

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Humble Beginnings

Honest Questions

Wholehearted Surrender

Further discussion/questions? andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

*** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Trinity Hymnal 529

Advent Offering

Central America Teen Moms Ministry

Michelle Suwyn

Prayers of the People

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820.

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel* violin & piano

text, Sabine Baring-Gould
traditional Basque carol; arr. Lee Burswold

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
"From God, all hail," the angel said to Mary,
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"Fear not for you shall bear a holy child,
by whom we shall to God be reconciled;
his name shall be Emmanuel, the long foretold:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary humbly bowed her head:
"To me be as it pleases God," she said,
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, upon that Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

*** Advent Doxology**

B. Blomquist

Praise God from Whom all bless-ings flow, praise Him all crea-tures
here__ be-low. Praise Him__ a-bove, ye hea-ven-ly host. Praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Praise Fa-ther, Son, and
Ho-ly Ghost. Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

*** Benediction**

Psalms 91:9-12

..You [who] have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is [your] refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

*** Postlude**

Worship musicians

Richard Mason, song leader & bass
Aaron Horsager, violin

Rob LaPlaca, guitar
Susan Guerra, piano

Advent Offerings

Each year, during the Advent season, we collect extra offerings for particular ministries. As we meditate on Christ's coming, we encourage you to prayerfully consider joining us as a body in this opportunity to express our gratitude and worship. During each week of Advent a different ministry will be presented. The offerings collected throughout the season are divided evenly among the ministries. Designated envelopes are available at the welcome center or through the online giving form by selecting Advent Offerings. This year the ministries include the following:

Afghan Refugees

Besides its long-standing adoption and foster care service, Bethany has been involved in providing housing and resettlement for refugees from many countries. Now, because of the crisis in Afghanistan, they anticipate more than 230 Afghan refugees arriving by the end of this year, mostly younger families. There is a great need for funds, donated items, and volunteers who can help with the many practical needs of resettlement. We also challenge you to pray about forming a team to be a co-sponsor with Bethany staff to help these newcomers get through the hurdles of medical and legal registration, transportation, language learning, finding housing, and just friendship.

Central American Teen Moms

Michelle Suwyn has been working with Teen Moms through Young Life in Latin America for many years. Many teen moms feel like they do not belong anywhere. Getting these Moms and kids away with leaders and friends to process the gospel being spoken over them is a place God moves powerfully. This experience can give teen moms new hope knowing they are seen, welcomed, loved and invited not just to camp but into a relationship with Jesus. Young Lives has a goal of sending 160 girls to various camps in the next couple of months.

New City Catechism in Japanese

Because of the dearth of quality discipleship books and Christian training materials in Japanese, Christ Bible Institute has set a goal of providing Gospel Resources for every Christian in Japan. One of their projects is the reprinting of the New City Catechism Devotional which they first translated and published in 2019. They have already distributed 5,000 copies for free and now are in need of a second printing. Our own pastoral resident, Masakuni Hotta, is deeply involved in this ministry and had the honor to be part of the translation and editing team for this excellent resource.

Mel Trotter Ministries

has teamed up with **Next Step** to more effectively provide job skill training and job placement for the most vulnerable and unemployed people on the streets of Grand Rapids. Some have spent time in prison, dealt with addictions, but they desire to build a better life. Many of the leaders in Next Step are former missionaries, working shoulder to shoulder with their clients to rediscover their identity as beloved people made in God's image. Once accepted in the program, they show up every day for work, learn the discipline of work, and develop wood working job skills. They get paid for what they do, making items for retail sales, and eventually most move to a longer-term job placement.

Life of the church

There will be a deacon fund collection next Sunday. Consider giving beyond your regular tithe to serve those in need. Include “deacon fund” in the memo line or give to the fund online by selecting Deacon fund. <https://christchurchgr.breezechms.com/give/online>

On Sunday December 5th, there will be "Advent Adventure To-Go!" bags available for you to take home, enjoy, and share with your friends and neighbors. There will be plenty of bags available, so please, take extra(s) and drop one off on someone's porch or invite them to your house for a smaller, cozier Advent Adventure experience!

Faithfully Working Lunch: **Leadership & Christianity 12-1pm on Friday, December 10** in the atrium. A discussion of leadership for people in all types and positions of work. Dan Churchwell will present on defining types of leaders and what Christianity uniquely brings to the conversation of leadership, followed by a conversation with new FW team member, Janice Koopman, on her experience as a leader in formal and informal roles. Signup at <https://christchurchgr.breezechms.com/form/fwlunchleadership>

Join us on **December 19 after the second service for a brunch in the atrium to celebrate and honor Scott and Leah Gritter** and their wonderful legacy here at Christ Church! If you are interested in making a brunch item to pass or have any questions please contact Morgan Vander Maas morganvandermaaas@christchurchgr.org

Extra books from Arts & Rec camp, *Magnify! Pondering the Life of Jesus with Mary*, are available on the table in the foyer. It would be a great book to read or re-read during this advent season. Written and illustrated by members of the Christ Church community.

We need your help! **In February of 2022, we will highlight missions involvement throughout our church and the world.** One specific week will feature speakers, music, artwork (and food!) If you are able to help in the planning of this upcoming missions festival, please contact Alice den Hollander via text or email.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Preschool - 4th grader Sunday School

Q. 99 What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

- A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, but the special rule of direction is the form of prayer that Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's prayer.

Q. 100 What does the beginning of the Lord's prayer teach us?

- A. The beginning of the Lord's prayer (Our Father in Heaven) teaches us to draw near to God with completely holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father who is able and ready to help us. It also teaches that we should pray with and for others.

Christ Kids Worship

November Theme: Praise

Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday Dec 1 at 6:30, Dinner at 5:45.
Christmas Program Practice for K-8th grade during the meeting

AGENDA

Opening Scripture & Prayer
Formation of the Roll and Adoption of the
Docket recommended by Session Clerk's
Report
Year in Review: Celebrating God's Faithfulness
By-Law Revision
Election of Officers
Budget
Budget Resolution
Questions
Adjournment Hymn and Prayer

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Deacon Jason Harley, Joel Klamer,
 Jacob Lahmann, Rob LaPlaca,
 Chad Mosher, David Tenney,
 Paul Wilhelm

Elder Dan Churchwell
 Shinji Yasugi

 Bryan Burke (*re-election*)
 Dick Friedrich (*re-election*)

*There are a few printed copies of the
Congregational Report by the mailboxes
outside the church office.*

Winter Weather

*The parking lot is plowed when there is at least 1 1/2" of accumulation.
Use your own judgment about attending if weather is poor.*

Where to see if an all-church event has been cancelled.

Give us your contact information website: www.christchurchgr.org
to receive a text (from 87447)
and an email WZZM: www.wzzm13.com/closings/
call the church: 616.949.9630 WCSG: www.wcsg.org/closings/

Decisions about Sunday morning service cancellations will be made by 7:30 am.

YOUTH

Jr High

This Friday, Dec. 3, will find us at church competing for the best Gingerbread House makers-get your creative brain working; 7:00-9:00

Youth group happens next Sunday, 4:30-6:00. Chili and cornbread is what's on the menu for dinner that night

Sr High

Come out this Saturday, Dec. 4, 3:00-6:00: Crazy Christmas Fashion and Serve Day. Put on your craziest Christmas fashion, grab your rake, and join us at church for some zany Christmas themed games, and then spend time helping someone from church with a little leaf raking (and donut consuming)

Next Sunday come out at 6:00 for chili and cornbread, followed by youth group from 6:30-8:00

MEN'S MINISTRY

Game & Get to Know You Night

Thursday, December 2nd from 6 - 9pm. We'll gather in the atrium, enjoy good food, play some games, have a time of introduction for men who are "new" to Christ Church and we'll share some stories. Sign-up at: <https://christchurchgr.breezechms.com/form/53f84c79>

Movie Night on Fri Jan 27th at 6pm. This is a great time for grandpas, dads, sons and grandsons to enjoy a night out together. It is also a very relaxed and fun church event to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers. David Blakeslee will serve as host for the night, let him know if you have a movie suggestion.

WOMEN’S DISCIPLESHIP

Come to the atrium **Tuesday Dec 7 at 7pm for a Christmas Cookie Exchange!** Plan to bring 2 dozen cookies of your choice to give away and to go home with 2 dozen cookies made by others. Join for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Did you ever imagine that God would use technology in so many ways to expand the opportunity to study His Word for people around the world? We’ll discover one way He has done that in our **study of Ruth during the January Series**, a four week study for all women of the Christ Church and beyond. Study via zoom on Monday nights, January 3, 10, 17 and 24. Study in person, Wednesday mornings January 5, 13, 19 and 26. Uncomfortable with technology? We’ll have paper copies available. Watch for an invite in your church mailbox and an email with the details.

Financial Report

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Jan - Oct Receipts | \$849,519 | \$ 858,208 |
| Jan - Oct Expenses | \$848,880 | \$ 865,850 |
| Jan - Oct Over (Under) | \$ 639 | \$ (7,642) |
| Tithes and Offerings | | |
| November 7 | \$ 19,427 | |
| November 14 | \$ 21,270 | |
| November 21 | \$ 11,605 | |
| November Total Tithes & Offerings | \$ 47,301 | \$ 82,125 |
| EXTENDING COMMUNITY ENABLING MISSION CAMPAIGN | | |
| Total Commitments | \$1,734,557 | |
| Campaign Funds Received | \$1,344,814 | |

This Week's Events

| | | |
|------------------|----------|---|
| Today | 8:30 AM | Worship Service |
| | 11:15 AM | Worship Service |
| | 2:30 PM | College-Age Men's Bible Study |
| | 7:00 PM | College-Age Women's Bible Study |
| Monday | 7:00 PM | Men's Leviticus Bible Study |
| Tuesday | 8:30 AM | Men's Breakfast - <i>New Beginnings</i> - 6209 28th Street SE |
| | 10:00 AM | Women's Acts Bible Study |
| | 8:00 PM | College-Age Men's Bible Study |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM | Men's Gospel of John Study - <i>contact Bob 616-915-5477</i> |
| | 8:00 AM | Men's Breakfast - <i>Rainbow Grill</i> - 4158 Chicago Drive |
| | 5:45 PM | Dinner |
| | 6:30 PM | Annual Congregational Meeting |
| | 7:45 PM | K-8th grade Christmas Program Practice Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday | 6:00 PM | Men's Game Night |
| Friday | 5:00 PM | F.I.S.H. Friday |
| | 7:00 PM | Jr High Gingerbread Contest |
| Saturday | 9:30 AM | Shape Note Singing |
| | 2:00 PM | Sr High Crazy Christmas & Serve |



**CHRIST
CHURCH**

2500 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 • **616-949-9630**
www.christchurchgr.org • office@christchurchgr.org
Worship Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:15 am in the sanctuary.

office hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 9:00-2:00pm

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: please submit by 7:30pm Wednesday to announcements@christchurchgr.org

STAFF

Betsy Bray
Administrative Assistant
Debbie Bukovietski
Director of Children's Ministry
Paul Cha
Pastoral Partner
Jerry & Nina Gortmaker
Visitation Coordinators
Scott Gritter
Director Youth Ministries
Rick Groggel
Treasurer
Susan Guerra
Director of Music & Arts

Kuni Hotta
Pastoral Resident
Addison Hawkins
Associate Pastor
Greg Meibeyer
Operations Director
Ben Seneker
Pastor of Gracehill Church
Andrew VanderMaas
Lead Pastor
Morgan VanderMaas
Youth Discipleship Coordinator
Jim Visser
Executive Director
Kimberly Visser
Office & Communications Manager

ELDERS *with fold zip codes*

Bryan Burke & Jim Visser
49301, 49341, 49503, 49504, 49505, 49525, 49538
Mike Buwalda & Bob LaFleur
49506, 49507
David deJong & Jerry Stutzman
49302, 49331, 49546

Dick Friedrich & John Streefkerk
49007, 49508, 49512, 49315, 49323, 49316, 49058
Jerry Gortmaker
49418, 49423, 49426, 49428, 49464, 49509, 49519, 49534, 49535, 49548
Ken Morse
Gracehill

DEACONS

Randy Bosma
Ray Chamberlain
Jon Deur
George Dykstra
Jon Eldersveld
Paul Lammers
Greg Stawicki