

SERMON NOTES



Rockford Reformed Church

SOME**DAY**
through every day

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Lucy Layman & Chris Vance



Scan to view the online bulletin
(RockfordRC.org/sundays/bulletin)

Advent for Exiles



My Heart Is Full

Isaiah 7:14, John 1:14

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

*Angels We Have Heard On High
We Have A Savior
Go Tell It On The Mountain*

Offering

Lowest Of Lows

Prayer & Message

"My Heart Is Full"
Series: Advent for Exiles
Isaiah 7:14, John 1:14 (p.572, 886)
Rev. Tim Meendering

Response

Is He Worthy

Closing Blessing

*KidLife Worship (3 years - 2nd grade, KidLife Room 246/247)
and nursery (Room 241) are available.*

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CHRISTMAS BRUNCH **TUESDAY**

ALL RRC women and friends, you are invited to a Special Christmas Brunch Fellowship on **Tuesday, December 9 from 9:30-11:00am** hosted by the Tuesday Women’s Bible Study group. We will meet down in the newly remodeled Fellowship Hall for a time of singing hymns and sharing God’s Word and prayers - plus a fun activity or two! Enjoy a delicious brunch (healthy options available) with hot and iced coffee and hot mulled cranberry tea. We prayerfully encourage you to attend and meet some new faces! We will be delighted to see you there!

SINGLE LADIES' LUNCH SATURDAY

Our annual Christmas dinner and game time will be held on December 13 at 1pm in the new downstairs fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Wilma Nelson (616-690-4479).

RRC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 5-7pm (caroling at 3:45)

Families are invited to meet at church at 3:45 to walk to Bishop Hills Assisted Living where we will sing Christmas carols and mingle with residents from 4-4:45. Ham dinner at church is from 5-5:30, followed by a time of fellowship during a family-friendly escape room style activity from 5:30-6:30, and we will close the evening by singing Christmas carols in the sanctuary until 7pm. You are invited to participate in any part of the evening. If you have young children and prefer to cut out after supper to make bedtime, that's fine. We will enjoy your participation while we have you.

KOMBUCHA WORKSHOP

Join Kassidy VanderZwaag for a one-hour, hands-on kombucha workshop on Monday, December 15, from 7:00–8:00pm in the church kitchen (by the gym). Whether you’re brand-new or looking to refine your process, you’ll learn the essentials of brewing and caring for kombucha at home. Feel free to invite non-RRC friends as well! See this morning's email for RSVP link or email tim.v@rockfordrc.org.

RENOVATION / EXPANSION FUND MATCH

A generous member has offered our church a dollar-for-dollar match gift up to the amount of \$100,000.00. At its meeting on November 12, our consistory accepted this gift and voted to use these monies, any new contributions, and the matching amounts to repay the outstanding loan from our recent renovation. We now have two great opportunities, first we have the opportunity to reduce our outstanding debt by \$200,000.00 and secondly, we have the opportunity to step out in faith to increase our giving over and above our normal amounts and see what God will do. All contributions made to the Renovation/Expansion Fund for November, December, January and February will be counted as contributions toward this match. Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute so that we can fully meet the matching amount in as short a period as possible.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13
worship service congregational mtg. youth group 4:30-7pm focal point 5-7pm kidlife club 5-7pm	prayer partners 7pm via zoom	men’s devotional bkf 7:30-8:30am women’s bible study 9:30, Christmas brunch pickleball 6:30-8pm, gym	women’s bible study 6:15-7:15pm, room 250		REAL men 7-8am, fellowship lobby	single ladies lunch 1pm, old fellowship hall
December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20
worship service communion NKC items due caroling 3:45pm Christmas party 5-7pm	prayer partners 7pm via zoom kombucha workshop 7-8pm, kitchen by gym	men’s devotional bkf 7:30-8:30am pickleball 6:30-8pm	YA bible study 7pm		REAL men 7-8am, fellowship lobby	
December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	December 25	December 26	December 27
worship service	prayer partners 7pm via zoom		Christmas Eve Service 4pm nursery for K and under	Christmas		

More information on these activities can be found in our weekly eBeacon (sent out Sunday mornings). If you haven’t signed up to receive this weekly email, contact the front office at connect@rockfordrc.org and ask to be put on the list.



THE MINDFUL MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

This Biblically-based marriage event for couples is scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2026. This conference, presented by Ron & Nan Deal, is designed to inspire, educate, and encourage couples in all seasons of life (pre-marriage, marriage, and blended family marriage) toward greater intimacy and stability. Based on the

Amazon #1 bestselling book, *The Mindful Marriage: Create Your Best Relationship Through Understanding and Managing Yourself* by Ron and Nan, and Dr. Terry & Sharon Hargrave. Early bird pricing through January 4 is \$64.99 per couple. Scan qr code for more details and a link to register. Limited scholarships available. If needed, please contact Laura at connect@rockfordrc.org

DEVOTIONAL – ADVENT FOR EXILES

Copies of Caroline Cobb's book *Advent for Exiles* are available in the Fellowship Lobby with a suggested donation of \$10.

This Advent, we’re rooting ourselves in two anchor songs: **“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”** and **“Is He Worthy?”** Each week, we’ll begin with Emmanuel and end with Is He Worthy—bookending our worship with the story we’re living in: waiting in hope, and resting in the certainty that Christ is King. As our team sat with the themes of longing and expectation, we tried to find music that carried that tone. These songs rang true for us. They hold both sides of Advent in tension: the ache of a world that’s not yet whole, and the steady truth that Jesus is worthy—yesterday, today, and forever.

We wait in the dark, but not without a King. Christ is worthy, and He will come again.

So please join us as we sing, and let these words shape your waiting. Lift your voice, remember the promise, and rest in the hope we share: | **The King is coming. Open your mind, believe it. Open your heart, receive Him.**

-The Advent Team