

## Gathered to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and God's Greeting

Advent Reading and Candle-lighting

Song of Advent:

"Come, O Redeemer, Come"

Song of Worship:

"Here I Am to Worship"

## Relying on Grace

Prayer

Song of Worship: #181:1-3 (WC)

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

## Giving with Thanks

Offertory Prayer

Offering:

Daystar School

## Hearing God's Word

Scripture:

Judges 11-12 (p. 245)

Sermon:

**FROM COVENANT CHAOS TO CHRISTMAS ACCORD**

Prayer

## Blessed to Serve

Song of Response: #161 (WC)

"Once in Royal David's City"

Benediction

Advent Doxology

Postlude

## Leading us in Worship

Worship Leader:

Pastor Matthew Lanser

Sermon:

Pastor Greg Schuringa

Organ:

Donna Erdman

Piano:

Jan Slinkman

Violin:

Kristen Voss

Bass:

Carter Bulthuis

Guitars:

Matt Bulthuis, Mike Printz

Advent Participants:

Izzy David, Al De Los Santos, Sunday School

*(PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church- in pews; LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal-not in pews)*

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**Evening Worship – 6:00 PM**  
**Christmas Candlelight Service**

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**We Worship and Listen and Offer our Gifts**

Prelude

Call to Worship:

“Shine On Us”

Welcome & God’s Greeting

Songs of Praise:

“Angels from the Realms of Glory-Emmanuel”

“Rejoice!”

Scripture:

Luke 6:27-36 (p. 1021)

Message:

**LOVE**

Prayer

Song of Worship:

“Christmas Offering”

Offering:

Crossroads Prison Ministry

Offertory:

“What Child is This?”

**We Praise God for Jesus’ Birth**

**1st Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

Song of Worship: #169 (WC)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Ministry of Music:

“The Wondrous Story”

**2nd Reading:** Luke 2:1-5

Song of Worship: #155:1,3,4 (WC)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**3rd Reading:** Luke 2:6-7

Song of Praise:

“We Will Exalt You”

**4th Reading:** Matthew 1:22-23

Song of Worship:

“What Child is This?”

**5th Reading:** Luke 2:8-20

Song of Worship: #162:1,6 (WC)

“The First Noel”

Ministry of Music:

“O Holy Night”

**6th Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

Ministry of Music:

“Humble King”

Benediction

Closing Song:

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Postlude

**Leading us in Worship**

Worship Leader: Pastor Greg Schuringa

Sermon: Pastor Matthew Lanser

Organ: Donna Erdman

Violin: Kristen Voss

Piano: Jan Slinkman

Harp: Sydney Bulthuis

Oboe: Olivia Schuringa

Bass: Carter Bulthuis

Guitars:

Matt Bulthuis, Mike Printz

Flutes: Morgan Hoving, Nan Loerop, Sarah Schuringa, Leah Tornow

Ministry of Music:

Kathy Greenfield, Sandy Roelofs

Scripture Readers:

Jonathan & Chelsea Barney

*(PH-Psalter Hymnal; WC-Worshiping Church- in pews; LH-Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal-not in pews)*

## Today at Faith

**This is the Fourth and Final Sunday of Advent.** Advent is a period of waiting and anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises through the coming of Jesus. As we prepare for and give thanks for His birth at Christmas, we also anticipate Christ's second coming at the end of time when God will make all things new. For Advent and Christmas Day, people representing various church ministries will read from God's Word and light a candle to help point us to God's Promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

**This morning** we'll continue in Judges and pick up some critical circumstances in chapters 11 and 12 under the theme, Covenant Chaos to Christmas Accord.

**This evening** we'll share in our annual Candlelight Service looking toward Christmas. We'll conclude our Advent sermon series with a reading from Luke 6:27-36 and a focus on the theme of love. The video for this theme is available at: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/agape-love/>.

## Upcoming Worship Highlights

December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Service  
December 30, 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM: Old Year's Sunday  
January 6, 9:30 AM: New Year's Sunday  
January 6, 6:00 PM: Prayer Service

## Upcoming Music Opportunities

Please take note of the following music opportunity for Christmas morning. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend and contact Jan or Donna if you have any questions.

### **Christmas Rehearsals:**

December 23: Choir, 11:00 AM; Orchestra, 4:00 PM

## Offerings

Today: AM: Daystar School. PM: Crossroads Prison Ministry.  
Christmas Day: All God's Children.  
December 30: AM: Faith General Fund. PM: Chicago Christian Counseling.

## Prayer & Praise

**Pre-morning worship prayer time:** The Faith CRC Elder Prayer Team invites anyone to join in praying for our worship services in Room 1, from 9:10 – 9:20 AM every Sunday.

**Post-morning worship prayer time:** Immediately after morning worship every Sunday an Elder and a Stephen Minister are available for prayer in Room 14. Exit the sanctuary at the south-east door which leads toward the children's ministry wing and you'll see Room 14 straight ahead.

God called **Dirk Zaagman** home to glory last week. We extend our Christian sympathy to his wife, **Florence**, and their entire family. A funeral was held on Tuesday.

Remember to pray for those who are unable to join us in worship. Today we think of **Marge Stears** who lives in Burr Ridge.

**Dorothy Allen** would like to thank everyone for their prayers, beautiful cards, and wonderful support in this hard time following Tom's passing. The care of the congregation is deeply appreciated! Also, Dorothy has a new phone number: 708-218-3113; please update your directory.

**"Thank you Faith Family** for your prayers, support and well wishes during my recent hip surgery. God surely poured out HIS love on me through all of you!"  
Jayne Lindemulder

## Announcements

**The church office** will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25.

**Sunday School and Catechism** continue on their winter break today and will resume January 13.

**Children's Church** will begin a winter break today and will resume on January 13.

**Membership at Faith CRC.** If you are interested in learning more about membership at Faith or want to take steps toward membership, please contact Pastor Greg Schuringa.

**Profession of Faith.** If you are a baptized member of the church and interested in making profession of faith, please contact Pastor Greg Schuringa. For high school students interested in making profession of faith, our annual class will be offered in early 2019. Watch the bulletin for more details!

**Ebenezer-Faith Partnership:** As part of our church-to-church partnership this ministry year, Ebenezer CRC will be joining us here at Faith for our Christmas Day service.

**Kids and Coffee:** Are you expecting some cabin fever at the end of Christmas break? We can help. Bring your kids (babies through elementary-school age) and your coffee (or other favorite caffeinated beverage) to the fellowship hall for a casual time of letting kids run around and play together from 9:00-11:00 AM on Thursday, January 3. We won't have any planned activities; just an opportunity for kids and parents to hang out together at the end of Christmas break. Contact Laura Lanser with any questions.

**The Faith CRC Council** will be meeting on January 7, 2019 to initiate the elder-deacon nomination process for the service term starting in June 2019. The process starts with the Council selecting nominees for each office and culminates on May 5 at our annual Congregational Meeting with the congregation voting from among the Council nominees. In preparation, the Council asks the congregation to suggest names for each office. We value your thoughtful and prayerful consideration for those who would qualify as elders and deacons. We are guided in this process by the insight provided in God's word regarding the qualifications for each office found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 (elders) and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (deacons). To make a recommendation, please put the nominee's name and the office for which you are nominating him on a signed piece of paper and put it in the church mailbox of Don Miller, Clerk of Council, or please speak with any deacon or elder.

**A fun series of projects** are being organized with the hope of involving help from as many hands in the congregation as possible. Our first project will be to make a set of matching quilts. One quilt will hang here at church, and one will hang in the orphanage we support in Honduras as a gift made by our congregation. We hope to have the quilts finished for Mission Emphasis week on February 17. On Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30 PM we invite everyone of all ages willing to help, meet us in the Fellowship Hall. We will be measuring, cutting, pinning and sewing materials to prepare the quilt. You do not need to know how to sew or quilt to help. Please sign up at the signup counter if you are interested in helping! Contact Niki Tazelaar with questions [NikiTazelaar@gmail.com](mailto:NikiTazelaar@gmail.com) or 773-332-0405.

**Senior Bible Study** will conclude the Generosity study on Tuesday, January 15.

**Faith Book Club** has chosen *Prague Winter* by Madeleine Albright for discussion at their next meeting. Drawing on her memory, her parents' written reflections and newly available documents, the author recounts a tale that is in turns both harrowing and inspiring. Newcomers are welcome to join us on January 15 at 7:00 PM at Park Place.

**Roseland Breakfast and Worship:** Serve breakfast at 9:00 AM and join in worship at 10:00 AM with Roseland Christian Ministries on January 27. Please RSVP to Jonathan at [Jbarney@faithelmhurst.org](mailto:Jbarney@faithelmhurst.org).

**Crossroads is Growing!** We have seen an overwhelming increase in the number of students in the Crossroads program since we began providing prepaid postage in January. Our office is bursting at the seams with incoming lessons from students! Each of these lessons represents a prisoner who is hungry for contact with the outside world and in need of the gospel of Christ. Will you consider joining the ministry of Crossroads as a mentor! Go to [cpministries.org](http://cpministries.org) or contact Ray Middel at [rmiddel6@gmail.com](mailto:rmiddel6@gmail.com) or call 630-862-1861 to learn more.

**Calvin January Series:** Faith will not be hosting the January Series in 2019. You can listen to the audio of current and previous presentations at [www.Calvin.edu/January](http://www.Calvin.edu/January).

**The 6<sup>th</sup> - 8th Grade Catechism Class** will be collecting aluminum cans and used Christmas lights. Proceeds will be donated to *All God's Children*. Please help us by saving your cans and dropping them off in tightly tied bags by the garage.

**Make all your shopping count!** Don't forget to assign Faith CRC to your AmazonSmile account so that a percentage of everything you spend can be given back to Faith and we will put it towards our budget.

**Faith CRC on Facebook, Twitter and now Instagram!** Search for "faithelmhurst" on Instagram and follow us there!

## Youth News

**The Gathering** will meet again on Sunday, January 6.

**Asylum** will meet on Sunday, January 13.

**Winter Retreat:** All 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us from January 18-20 for winter fun, horseback riding, paint ball, guest speaker and band and fellowship at Phantom Ranch, WI. Registration is available online and due by January 6. Cost: \$95.

**Roseland Breakfast and Worship:** Serve breakfast and join in worship at Roseland Christian Ministries on January 27, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please RSVP to Jonathan at [Jbarney@faithelmhurst.org](mailto:Jbarney@faithelmhurst.org).

## This Week at Faith

### Today, December 23

Choir Rehearsal, 11:00 AM

Orchestra Rehearsal, 4:00 PM

### Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Morning Worship, 10:00 AM

### Wednesday, December 26

Men's Prayer Group, 7:00 - 8:00 AM

## Serving Faith Church

**Welcome Team:** John Veldsema **Next Week:** Sharon Rozendal

**Kitchen:** Val Hoving, Mary Huizinga\*, Gary & Lisa Vander Naald

**Next Week:** Ed & Kim Biesboer\*, Bob & Sharon Herlien

**Library:** Chuck Slinkman **Next Week:** Chuck Slinkman

**Audio Visual:** Dan Kooyenga, Al De Los Santos, Adam Zarek

**Christmas Day:** Todd Lindemulder, Logan Van Proyen, Adam Zarek

**Next Week:** Steve David, Mike Speelman, Colin Middel

**Nursery Hostess:** Sarah Schuringa **Next Week:** Joy Koopmans

**Infant Nursery:** Kathy Miedema, Christina Muruato, Sophia Schuringa

**Next Week:** Mindy Slinkman, Harma Slinkman, Trudy Voss

**Toddler Nursery:** Sue Dillon, Val Hoving, Emma Dillon

**Christmas Day:** Kathleen Glaubke, Cristi Vander Naald, Barbara Snella, Madeleine Snella, College Sitters

**Next Week:** Alyssa Ridder, Niki Tazelaar, Ben Murphy

**PM Nursery:** Sharon Rozendal, Bethany Voss, Hannah Schuringa, College Sitters

**Next Week:** Laura Lanser, Izzy David