

Order of Worship

The congregation is invited to read the bold font.

**Indicates you may stand.*

PRELUDE Julia Huisman, Organ

"Good King Wenceslas"
"Away in a Manger" String Ensemble

*Natasha Sampson, Jabrel Blom, Ellie Nelson, Abby Wallinga,
Rinnah Hardeman, Amalia Visser & Laura Jonker*

CALL TO WORSHIP Children & Worship Choir Songs

"Joy to the World"
"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
"Joy to the Word"

GOD'S GREETING Invitation to Children & Worship

SONG OF WORSHIP "Be Still and Know" (a cappella)

Advent I – Prophets

Prophet Reflections

*HYMN # 133 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
vs. 1 & 3

Advent II – Mary & Joseph

Angel, Mary and Joseph Reflections

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
(Please pass the fellowship pad found at the end of the pew.)

OFFERTORY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1-3) Hands of Praise
Rosalyn DeKoster, soloist

Advent III – Shepherds

Shepherd Reflections

*HYMN #162 "The First Noel"
vs. 1-2

Advent IV – Magi

Magi Reflections

*HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful"
vs. 1-2

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: Soon, it will be Christmas – the day we celebrate
the mystery of God becoming a person.
Soon we will all be in Bethlehem
to meet the Christ child, the Son of God.

**People: Today, we stop to remember this
newborn Christ child, lying in a manger bed.
We stop to wonder about the mystery of Christ –
a light in Bethlehem,
but also a light for the whole world.**

Leader: This is the Christ candle. It reminds us that Christ is
the Light that shines brightly on all our journeys.
The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.
Let us pause to enjoy the light of Christ.

(A moment of silence.)

Leader: Now we will change the lights.
The light of the prophets,
the light of the Holy Family,
the light of the shepherds,
and the light of the Magi,
and the Light of Christ...
they remind us all of those who can show us
the way to Bethlehem.

**People: The light of Christ goes with us
wherever we go all year around,
on our way to Bethlehem...
but also on our way to school, work, church,
the grocery store or on our way home.
In this season of advent, we go forth
to follow those who went before us
on the journey and to seek Christ
in our midst today.**

Leader: I wonder, would you come along? Let's join the prophets,
the holy family, the shepherds, and the magi
on this journey. Let's bring the light of Jesus with us
on our journeys to Bethlehem today.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG "O Come All Ye Faithful"
v. 3

*POSTLUDE Julia Huisman, Organ

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Participating in Worship

Children & Worship Choir

June Koerselman	Margareta Visser	Lucy Vander Weide
Noah Vazquez	Ryden Cleveringa	Myles Nelson
Micah Elliott	Micaiah Hardeman	Samuel Altana
Marcus Hofmeyer	Will Stauffer	Anna Wallinga
Noah Tjaden	Blake Schwarz	Kolt Bahrenfuss
Alison Wallinga	Braleigh Cleveringa	Lydia Anderson
Tyler Beltman	Brooklyn Byl	Mason Hofmeyer
Isaiah Nelson	Margo Mahr	Marielle Visser
Xander Mahr		

Wonderers

Lydia Anderson – Prophet Wonderer #1
Mason Hofmeyer – Prophet Wonderer #2
Tyler Beltman – Prophet Wonderer #3
Brooklyn Byl – Prophet Wonderer #4
Margo Mahr – Mary/Joseph Wonderer #5
Isaiah Nelson – Mary/Joseph Wonderer #6
Marielle Visser – Mary/Joseph Wonderer #7
*Jenna Schwarz – Shepherd Wonderer #8
*Blake Byl – Shepherd Wonderer #9
*Kaylor Cleveringa – Shepherd Wonderer #10
*Ahman Langton – Magi Wonderer #11/Candle Lighter #5
*Leif Schmitz – Magi Wonderer #12
*Ava Truesdell – Magi Wonderer #13

Characters

*Ben Burg – Prophet #1
*McKenna Cleveringa – Prophet #2
*Cameron Hofmeyer – Prophet #3/Candle Lighter #1
*Jabrel Blom – Angel #1
*Annalise Elliott – Mary
*Danielle Beltman – Angel #2
*Kyan Bahrenfuss – Joseph/Candle Lighter #2
*Amalia Visser – Angel #3
*Elena Vazquez – Shepherd #1
*Ellie Nelson – Shepherd #2/Candle Lighter #3
*Rinnah Hardeman – Magi #1
*Autumn Anderson – Magi #2
*Abby Wallinga – Magi #3/ Candle Lighter #4

**Hands of Praise*

Organist

Julia Huisman

Power Point

Meagan Wallinga

*THANK YOU F-3, Children & Worship choir, sound technicians, and
Hands of Praise volunteers for your assistance and support with this
years Advent Program! We couldn't have done it without you!*

*Kent & Pam Anderson
Doug & Marlene De Zeeuw
Nicole Beltman*

*Amanda Bunce
Bethany Dykstra
Nick Heider
Lizzy Rice*

**Everyone is invited to the High School Youth Group's annual
Christmas Brunch immediately following worship today in the
fellowship hall.** Come celebrate the Advent season in the warm
company of your church family and friends where the menu includes savory
egg bake and homemade breakfast baked goods. Your freewill offering
supports our high school youth and their plans to attend Rocky Mountain
High this summer.

REMINDERS FOR TODAY!

•ATTENTON: All College Students!

Please take a finals week gift from the basket at the Welcome Center! We are praying for your peace and focus as you enter this week of exams.

•Poinsettias for Sale:

TODAY is the last Sunday to purchase a poinsettia from the ARC Middle School Youth Group. The cost per poinsettia is \$25. Color choices include red and white poinsettias. Forms are available online and at the Welcome Center. Stop by after church to place your order!

•Sign Up to Provide Cookies/Bars

Volunteers are needed to provide 4 dozen cookies/bars for coffee fellowship time on a designated Sunday, beginning January 8th. They can be baked, frozen and brought at a later time, or purchased. Stop by the Welcome Center to sign up TODAY!!!

•December Mission of the Month: Hope Haven

For over 50 years, Hope Haven has served people with disabilities, providing job training, adult living services, and many other programs. Today, Hope Haven has programs in over 30 communities around the Midwest. Please use the labeled envelope found in your ARC mailbox and place your donation in the offering plate or bring it to the church office on or before 12 Noon on Friday, December 30. Please make your check payable to American Reformed Church, so it can be credited to your giving account.

Remembering God's People in Prayer

*We offer prayers of gratitude for the gift of new life, as **Brent and Savannah Van Leeuwen** welcomed baby **Madison Lanae** into their family on Saturday, December 3. Mom and baby and Dad and Grandpa and Grandma (**Doc and Bonnie Van Leeuwen**) are all doing well. Thanks be to God for this precious gift of new life!

*We offer prayers of blessing for **Mary Kepp**, who moved from assisted living at the Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community to the Prairie Ridge Care Center on Monday, December 5. Pray for Mary's comfort and peace, and pray for Bill and Kristy as they care for her.

*We offer prayers of gratitude for a successful knee replacement surgery for **Al Nibbelink** on Tuesday, December 6, at the Orange City Area Health System Hospital. Pray for Al's healing and recovery, and pray for Sandy as she supports him throughout.

*Please be in prayer for **Pam & John Hofmeyer, Cameron, Mason & Marcus**, as they grieve the death of Pam's grandmother, Harriet Moss, on Wednesday, December 7.

*Please pray for **Irene Cose, mother of Sharon Vande Steeg**, who was admitted to hospice care at the Orange City Area Health System Hospital this week. Pray for peace and comfort for Irene and Sharon and their family.

*Please continue to pray for **Don and Marlys Hop** as Don undergoes treatments at the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Arizona. Pray, too, for **Russ and Barb Krull** as Russ undergoes treatments at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls.

Events For Today

♦**3:00 PM ARC Seniors are invited to a Christmas gathering** at the home of Marilyn Jiskoot (301 Frankfort Av NE #104 Ph. 737-4041). If you have a plate of treats or snacks that you would like to share with the group, it would be appreciated. I hope you can join us for a time of singing carols, sharing memories and socializing.

♦**6:30-8:30 PM High School Youth Group** (at the Lamberts)

Events for the Week

Monday, December 12

10:00-11:00 AM Women's Prayer Group

(Prairie Ridge Care Center, Grandview Cottage Dining Room, located in the southwest part of the building.) Questions? Contact Arlene Punt at 707-4600.

1:30 PM Women's Faith Sharing (Room 201)

Contact: Lynne Grossmann (737-4202)

Wednesday, December 14

6:15-7:30 PM F3 & MSYG FAMILY Christmas Caroling Party

Come to the Fellowship Hall with your whole family to receive assignments for a festive time of caroling to members of our congregation. We'll finish with hot cocoa and cookies in the Fellowship Hall after the groups return from caroling. *This event may go slightly past 7:30 PM.*

Sunday, December 18—6:00 PM

Searching for Comfort and Hope Service

Christmas can be a painful time for some. The constant refrain about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons, *American Reformed Church* is offering a special "Service of Comfort and Hope" next Sunday, December 18, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.

•NOTICE: Young Family Nursery Play Dates will resume on Monday, January 9, 2017 - 9:30-10:30 AM

Need a change of scenery? Tired of playing with the same toys every day? Come to the ARC Nursery on Monday mornings for an informal play-time and fellowship with parents and young children. Questions? Please contact Laura Genade, Coordinator (lgenade@gmail.com).

(See more announcements on insert.)

Staff

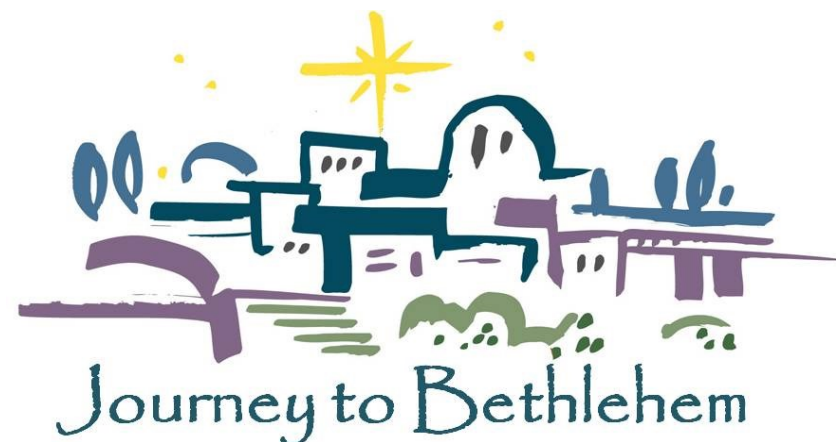
Rev. Elizabeth Brown-Hardeman, Co-Pastor
elizabetharcoc@gmail.com
Rev. Michael Hardeman, Co-Pastor
mikearcoc@gmail.com
Mary Abels, Admin. Assist.
Rosalyn De Koster, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Laura Jonker, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Rusty Marinovich, Facility Coord.
Meagan Wallinga, Media Specialist
Philip De Koster, Choir Director

American Reformed Church

407 Albany Avenue SE
Orange City, IA 51041
712.737.4430
americanchurchoc@gmail.com
www.americanchurchoc.com

American Reformed Church is a community that gathers together to be transformed by Jesus to transform the world through acceptance, grace, wisdom, and love.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have been called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to *welcome, worship, know, serve, and share.*



Children's Advent Program 2016

Announcements

•Christmas Eve Choir

If you would like to join the choir for its Christmas Eve piece, please join us each Sunday at 8:45 AM in the Fireside Room for rehearsal. We'd love to have extra singers. If you've been thinking about choir, now is your chance to give it a try! Questions? Contact Philip De Koster at phildeko@gmail.com or 605-759-8799.

•Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be held on Saturday afternoon, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. The offering is designated for our American Reformed Church Regional Missional Impact Partners: Amistad Cristiana, ATLAS Orange City Area, Family Crisis Center, Hope Haven International, Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center, and The Bridge.

•Christmas Day Worship Service

On Sunday, December 25, we will be worshiping at our normal hour—9:30 a.m. Our Christmas Day Service will be a service of lessons and carols and—like every other Sunday throughout the year—our offering will be for the American Reformed Church General Fund.

•2016 General Fund Excess

Thank you for your financial support of ARC's mission and ministry! Due to your generosity and the ARC Staff's and ARC Consistory's diligent stewardship of resources, we are projecting a general fund excess (our offerings will exceed our expenses) for this year. Thanks be to God! In order to continue to encourage your continuing generosity, all 2016 ARC General Fund offerings received in excess of 2016 ARC General Fund expenses will be designated three ways:

- 1/3 will be designated for the General Fund Reserves
- 1/3 will be designated to pay down the debt incurred (approximately \$25,000) to finish the boilers and direct digital controls projects
- 1/3 will be earmarked for expenses associated with a potential upcoming capital campaign through the facilities master planning process

In order for your gifts to be included on your 2016 contributions statement, all gifts need to be received in the church office before noon on Friday, December 30, 2016.

•ARC News

In light of the staff's attempt to streamline all communication with the congregation, ARC Media Specialist Meagan Wallinga has added a "News" tab on the ARC website. Once you click on the "News" tab, you will be directed to a page containing "Kids Min News," "Youth Min News," and "General Announcements." Below those links, you will find a church calendar with up-to-date church programming information. Please check out these links on a regular basis so that you can remain up-to-date with all that's taking place in the ministry and mission of American Reformed Church.

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