

# The Approach to God

*The congregation is invited to read the bold font.  
\*Indicates you may stand.*

## PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP "Come to Us"  
*\*Congregation may stand and join when invited to do so.*

\*SONG OF WORSHIP "Come to Us"

\*GOD'S GREETING

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
The peace of Christ with you.  
**And also with you.**

## ADVENT LITANY

Leader: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**People: During this season of Advent, we wait—expecting God to do the unexpected among us.**

Leader: In Genesis 25, God told Rebekah to expect the unexpected—that the twins in her womb would be different. God told Rebekah that the elder son would serve the younger.

**People: On this second Sunday in Advent, we are surrounded by the love of God. Our God does the unexpected—for Rebekah and Isaac in the birth of sons named Jacob and Esau and for all of God's people in the birth of God's Son named Jesus.**

Leader: For nothing is too hard for the LORD.

**People: The first Advent candle is a candle of hope. The second Advent candle is a candle of love—calling us to expect God to do the unexpected in our lives.**

ADVENT SONG #133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
v. 3

# The Word of God

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children ages 3-1st grade are invited to attend Children & Worship located on the lower level:  
3-4 year olds — Room 103; 5-6 year olds — Room 104  
Worship bags are located by the elevator for children to use during worship.*

## SONG OF PREPARATION

"By Faith"

## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25:19-27

## SERMON

*Expect the Unexpected: Rebekah and Isaac*

## MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

## INVITATION

## COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, our creator. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You set us in this world to love and serve you and to seek peace for all of creation. When we turned from you, you did not turn from us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Sung a cappella:*

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

You sent Jesus into this world to save all people, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. Jesus came among us as one of us and set before us the promise of new life in his birth, life, death and resurrection. We remember this act of love and with thanksgiving we offer ourselves to you to be living and loving sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!  
Christ is risen!  
Christ will come again!**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the world so all may know the healing power of your love.

**All glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*Please exit to your left out of the pew, come forward to the serving station. Return to your pew on the opposite side from which you exited. Anointing of oil and prayers for healing will also be offered. Children are welcome to participate in communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. Children who do not participate in communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Our communion service is completely gluten free.*

# The Response to God

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(Please pass the fellowship pad found at the end of the pew.)*

OFFERTORY "Waiting for a King"

\*DOXOLOGY p. 809

\*SONG OF RESPONSE Insert "Savior of the World"

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING SONG Insert "Savior of the World"  
*Chorus*

The Savior of the world is comin'.  
The Savior of the world is comin' down.  
Come on Gabriel and go tell Mary  
The Savior of the world is comin' down.

## \*POSTLUDE

*All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890*

### Participating in Worship:

The Congregation Serving the Lord in Worship  
Mikayla Vos Organist  
Pam Anderson, Doug De Zeeuw, Marlene De Zeeuw, Tamara Fynaardt, John Hubers, Jenn Lambert Praise Team  
Pastors Mike & Elizabeth Hardeman Leading in Worship  
Beth Benschoter and Mason Menninga Advent Litany and Confession  
Laura Jonker Children's Message  
Sanctuary Choir Ministry of Music  
Philip De Koster, Director  
Anna Bartlett, Flute  
Mikayla Vos, Accompanist

### Praying for God's People:

\***Al Nibbelink**, who will be having knee replacement surgery at the Orange City Area Health System Hospital on Tuesday, December 6.

\***Sally Thompson, daughter of Paul & Vernie Van Engelenhoven**, who will be having an infusion at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN on Monday, December 5.

### Those receiving cancer treatments:

\***Russ Krull** (radiation treatments for tonsil cancer)

\***Don Hop** (chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer at the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Arizona)

\***PLEASE NOTE:** If a pastoral concern or need arises, please contact the **Church Office** 737-4430

**Pastor Elizabeth or Pastor Mike** 737-4430 / 737-9050

or an on-call Elder:

**Dec 4-10: Kim Van Es** 722-1440 / 441-7164

**Dec 11-17: Kathy Gabel** 707-9170 / 737-7799

**BABY GIRL**

*The rose on the baptismal font is to announce the arrival of Ariella Ann, to Laura & Tyrone Genade, on Tuesday, November 22.*

*She is also welcomed home by big brother Daniel.*

### Events For Today

◆ **Congregational Meeting: TODAY, 10:45 to 11:25 AM** in the ARC Sanctuary. All confessing members of the American Reformed Church are invited and encouraged to attend. Everyone can grab a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship together. Then, the congregation will gather again at 10:45 AM in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting. We'll celebrate God's goodness to ARC in 2016, we'll anticipate God's guidance of ARC in 2017, and we'll vote on the 2017 ARC General Fund Budget. For those unable to attend the meeting, the presentation will be available the following week via email or hard copy. Please contact Administrative Assistant Mary Abels ([americanchurchoc@gmail.com](mailto:americanchurchoc@gmail.com)) to request a copy of the presentation to be sent to you sometime the week of December 5.

◆ **10:30-10:45 AM Hands of Praise Rehearsal!** (Grades 2-5)

Location: Fellowship Hall

Please come immediately following worship!!!

◆ **10:30-10:45 AM Children & Worship Music Time**

◆ **10:45-11:30 AM Discipleship Classes** (Ages 3-12th Grades)

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

### 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 ([phildeko@gmail.com](mailto:phildeko@gmail.com) or 605-759-8799).

### Events for the Week

#### Monday, December 5

##### 9:30-10:30 AM Young Family Nursery Play Dates

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](mailto:lgenade@gmail.com)).

##### 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 7

##### 6:15-7:30 PM F3 ("Fuel for Faith") for children in 1st-5th grades

Location: Room 111 (Lower level)

We will do Advent Program rehearsals! ALL LINES MUST BE MEMORIZED!

##### 6:15-7:30 PM Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th Grades)

Location: Room 110

#### Sunday Dec. 11

##### 9:30AM ARC Children's Advent Program 2016

Join us for worship at 9:30 AM on December 11th as we "Journey to Bethlehem" together. As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, ARC children ages 3 years - 5th grade will lead us in remembering those who have sought Christ before us. Hope you can join us!

**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.

### Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Brown-Hardeman, Co-Pastor  
[elizabetharcoc@gmail.com](mailto:elizabetharcoc@gmail.com)

Rev. Michael Hardeman, Co-Pastor  
[mikearcoc@gmail.com](mailto:mikearcoc@gmail.com)

Mary Abels, Admin. Assist.

Rosalyn De Koster, Dir. of Youth Ministries

Laura Jonker, Dir. of Children's Ministries

Rusty Marincovich, 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](mailto:americanchurchoc@gmail.com)

[www.americanchurchoc.com](http://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.*



## Announcements



### ◆ **Gifts for the Angel Tree Project are due by 12 Noon TODAY!**

Please place the gift under/by tree in the fellowship area.

### ◆ **Coming Soon! ARC Children's Advent Program 2016**



Join us for worship at 9:30 AM on December 11th as we "Journey to Bethlehem" together. As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, ARC children aged 3 years - 5th grade will lead us in remembering those who have sought Christ before us. Hope you can join us!

### ◆ **Poinsettias for Sale:**



The Middle School Youth Group is selling Christmas Poinsettias from through next Sunday, December 11. 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!

### ◆ **Bake for the Christmas Brunch!**



Support our High School Youth Group (HSYG) by volunteering to provide a 9x13 egg bake or breakfast baked goods for the HSYG's annual Christmas Brunch fundraiser on Sunday, December 11. If you like baking and love our high schoolers, let Tamara Fynaardt know **TODAY** what you can donate:

712-756-4215 or [fynaardt@nwciowa.edu](mailto:fynaardt@nwciowa.edu).

### ◆ **'Tis the season for Christmas Brunch!**

Celebrate the Advent season in the warm company of your church family and friends at the High School Youth Group's annual **Christmas Brunch** **after worship on Sunday, December 11**. Come to our festive Fellowship Hall 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.

### ◆ **An Invitation to Invest in ARC Youth**



You are invited to be a part of fostering intentional spiritual growth in our youth groups as a financial sponsor. Financial sponsors play an active role in teaching the youth about the generosity of God's gift of grace. 25 financial sponsors are needed to invest in the life of a middle or high school youth. Please prayerfully consider partnering with the youth in this capacity. Forms are currently available in the church office. For questions, contact Rosalyn De Koster ([arcyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:arcyouthmin@gmail.com) or 712.737.4430).

### ◆ **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!!!

### ◆ **Searching for Comfort and Hope: Sunday, December 18—6:00 PM**

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" on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 6:00 PM

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 dark-