

The Response to God

Offering Received

The Christmas Eve Offering is designated for ARC's Regional Missional Impact Partners: Amistad Cristiana, ATLAS Orange City Area, Family Crisis Center, Hope Haven International, Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center, and The Bridge.

Offertory

*Christmas Doxology

Insert

The Lighting of the Candles

The pastors will receive light from the Christ candle, and will then proceed to light the candles of the persons sitting at the end of each aisle. Please pass the light to the person sitting next to you.

Song of Reflection

"O Holy Night"

Sending Song

"Silent Night"

#164

vv. 1 & 2 with accompaniment

v. 3 a cappella

Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of "Silent Night."

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Indicates the congregation may stand if you wish*

----- Participating in worship:

The Congregation

Serving the Lord in Worship

Julia Huisman

Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship

Philip De Koster, Director

Julia Huisman, Accompanist

Pastors Mike & Elizabeth Hardeman

Leading in Worship

Wanda Korthals, Cameron Hofmeyer, Olivia Brunsting,

Christ Candle & Advent Candle Lighters

Noelle Sampson, and Allen Fernow

McKenna Cleveringa, Anton Burg, Heather Gabel,

Scripture Readers

Joseph Tolsma, and Junia Punt

Rosalyn De Koster, Ellen Tolsma, and Angela Kroeze Visser

Song of Reflection

Julia Huisman, Accompanist

Middle School & High School Students

Congregational Candle Lighters



“But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son...”

Galatians 4:4a (NRSV)

December 24, 2016
Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 PM

ARC
American Reformed Church
Orange City, Iowa

The Approach to God

Prelude

Call to Worship

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Song of Worship

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

#173

vv. 1, 3, & 4

Leader: Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation and

People: a time of expectation.

Leader: We have learned through Sarah and Isaac, Rebekah and Jacob, Rachel and Joseph...

People: that God does the unexpected among us and with us.

Leader: Tonight, we recognize God’s unexpected gift—a gift for all people.

People: Behold! I bring you good news of great joy for all people.

Leader: For today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

People: They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, “God with us.”

All: We come tonight, expecting the unexpected.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Song of Hope

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#174

vv. 1, 2, & 4

Song of Love

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#161

vv. 1, 2, & 4

Song of Joy

“Joy to the World”

#146

vv. 1, 2, & 4

*Song of Peace

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

#171

vv. 1, 2, & 3

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
**we confess that we miss your glory shining all around us.
We overlook the good news of great joy
brought to us through ordinary people.
We ignore the signs of your presence breaking into the world.**

(Brief period of silence for personal prayers of confession)

Forgive us, gracious God.
**Forgive our pride; forgive our ignorance.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today. Amen.**

***Song of Assurance** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #155
vv. 1, 2, 3, & 4

The Word of God

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Stories of Expecting the Unexpected

Genesis 18:1-15
Genesis 25:19-27
Genesis 30:22-24
Matthew 1:18-23
Luke 2:1-7
Galatians 4:4-7

Meditation

“Full Time”

***Song of Response** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #157
vv. 1, 2, & 3