



Seventh Reformed Church

December 22, 2024

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine!

2024 Motto Text: Isaiah 43:1b



Lessons and Carols

Welcome!

Seventh Reformed Church is a covenant community of God's people that exists to glorify God by gathering, nurturing, and equipping believers according to the supreme Word of God for life in the Spirit, Christian service, and witness to Jesus Christ in Grand Rapids and throughout the world.

Seventh Reformed Church is a member of the World Reformed Fellowship (www.wrfnet.org)

Service of Lessons and Carols 5:00 p.m.

Please note that most of the service will proceed unannounced.

Prelude

* **Processional Hymn**, “Once in Royal David’s City” LH 87, vv. 1-2, 4-5

* **Call to Worship and Prayer for Blessing** Pastor Paul van Engelenhoven

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 Bob Schellenberg

“Come, Lord Jesus (Sing Noel)” by Prichard, arr. Jim Ailor
Children’s Chorus

Come, Lord Jesus, come to dwell with us.
How we need Your presence near.
Come to guide us. Come to save us.
Come, O come, we welcome You here.
Alleluia! God is with us. Alleluia! Emmanuel.
Angels are praising and shepherds are bowing.
God is with us, sing Noel.

Second Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23 Rebecca Reyes

* **Congregational Hymn**, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” LH 61, vv. 1, 3, 4, 6



Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Roy Visser

“A Child Is Born”

by Victor C. Johnson

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
And His name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Unto us a Child is born; and this Child shall be peace.
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
And His name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Child is born. A Child is born.

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2–4

Matthew Lynde

“Bethlehem Carol”

by Brooks/Dan Boone

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26–38

Becky Gleason

“Mary, Did You Know?”

by Lowry/Greene, arr. by Schrader

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby,
Then you kissed the face of God.
The blind will see, the deaf will hear,
The dead will live again; the lame will leap,
The dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy
Is Heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding,
Is the great, the great I AM!

Meditation: *The Birth of the Son of God (Luke)*
 Luke 2:14

Prayer for Blessing on the Word of God



Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Joy De Vries

* **Congregational Hymn, "The Story Has Broken"**

by Michael Perry

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

Gerrit Tromp

"Still, Still, Still"

arr. Robert Wetzler

Still, still, still, Thy heart with joy I'd fill.
I'd sing Thee a song and watch by Thy manger,
Guard Thee from harm and keep Thee from danger.
Still, still, still, Thy heart with joy I'd fill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the oxen and the sheep.
The shepherds come to see Thy glory,
Angels bend low to tell Thy story;
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'mid the oxen and the sheep.

Still, still, still, within Thy holy will.
To Thee, great God, my voice I'd raise,
With awe and wonder sing Thy praise.
Still, still, still, within Thy holy will.

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Anne Eldersveld

"What Child Is This?"

Dix, arr. by Molly Ijames

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet
With anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and
Angels sing. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary.
Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of Kings, salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary.
This Babe, the Son of God.



Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Ron Sterkenburg

* **Congregational Hymn,** “O Come All Ye Faithful”

LH 76

Congregation and Choir

Congregation and Choir:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Chorus:

O Come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Choir:

God of God, Light of Light eternal,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin’s womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Chorus)

Congregation and Choir:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest! (Chorus)

Congregation and Choir:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Chorus)

* **Parting Blessing from God**

* **Parting Hymn**, “Silent Night”

LH 85, vv. 1, 3–4

* **Postlude**

* The Congregation stands for these acts of worship.

Preacher: Pastor Paul van Engelenhoven

Music Director: Mrs. Dawn Pastoor

Accompanist: Ms. Kris De Koster

Elder Assignments:

Rear Sanctuary: East—Paul van Engelenhoven

Center—Ken Ganzevoort

West—Jim Eldersveld

Front Sanctuary: East—Gerrit Tromp

Thank you for coming! We invite you to fill out a visitor card found in a pew rack. Further information about the church is available at the Welcome Center and the counter by the back entrance. Alternatively, please call the Church Office (616.459.4451), visit the website (www.7thref.org), email (7thref@7thref.org), or connect through the church’s Facebook page.

Refreshments: Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments following this afternoon’s worship service.

Christmas Day: On Christmas morning, Kris De Koster will begin the prelude at 9:30 a.m. with songs of the season as you arrive for worship. Feel free to come early to enjoy this musical celebration of our Savior’s birth. The service will end with the congregation singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Bring your own score or copies will be available so you can join in singing this majestic piece together as a congregation.

Sermon Notes

The Birth of the Son of God (Luke)
Luke 2:14

Introduction: The Introduction of the Son of God, Laying in a Manger

1. The Son of the Most High, the Son of David (1:26–38)
2. The Savior of the Humble Ones (1:46–55)
3. The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord from David’s City (2:8–14)
4. The Savior for the Gentiles and Israel (2:29–32)

<i>Elders</i>	<i>Deacons</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Pastor Paul van Engelenhoven , President Jim Eldersveld , Vice President Bob Schellenberg , Clerk Ward De Vries/Roy Visser , NW District Jim Eldersveld/Doug Sikma , NE District Ken Ganzevoort/Israel Quaresma , SE District Steve Lynde/Gerrit Tromp , SW District	Dave Huber , President Jeff Scharphorn , Vice President (Ex-Officio) Fred Van Dyke , Secretary Bernie Groenink Eric Hoek Jason Novakowski	Paul van Engelenhoven , S.B.G., Pastor Ben Bessett , M.Div., Pastor of Visitation and Outreach Dawn Pastoor , Music Director Tammy Cunningham , Office Administrator Jisun van Engelenhoven , Office Assistant Alex Sikma , Video and Podcast Editor

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YouTube Livestream · 9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. · Radio Broadcast · 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. WFUR AM 1570, FM 92.9