

Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship
our Lord and King

8 December 2024

Welcome! If you are visiting this morning, we're glad to have you with us today.

In today's text, we will unpack how the gospel, or good news, of Jesus' coming causes great joy for his people, Israel, and so for all people—including Gentiles like us!

Prelude *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Welcome
Call to Worship

Singing *Behold Our God
How Great is Our God*

Prayer of Confession

Singing *What Child is This?*

Advent Wreath
Children's worship (ages 3-5) begins in room 14 upstairs

Kingdom Prayers

Message **ADVENT: THE GOSPEL OF JOY**
Dr. Branson Parler LUKE 2:1-14 (P. 992)

Communion

Singing *Joy to the World*

Closing Blessing

Our offering this morning will be received
following our worship service

This week at **Fourth**

Today	Greeters Ed & Noreen Reitsma Next week: Mike & Nancy Brinks
	Nursery Kara Berrevoets, Julie Schalk Next week: Jeni Wammack, Erin Meendering
	Children's Worship Erin Meendering, Clara Broene Next week: Erin & Siena Broene, Christian Parler
	Coffee Branson & Sarah Parler Next week: Kongcheng & Haju Kimyang, Beth Rossiter
	11:15 AM CE Classes & Middle & High School Small Groups
	6:00 PM Rooted Meets

Monday	6:00 PM Fourth/Coit Cadets <i>at Coit Community Church</i>
Tuesday	10:00 AM Women's Bible Study <i>in the Fireside room</i>
Wednesday	6:30 AM Dude's Group – <i>New Beginnings, Michigan St</i>
Thursday	9:30 AM Men's Bible Study <i>in the Fireside room</i> 10:00 AM Knitting Group <i>at Rest Haven</i>

Praise & Prayer

Pray for **Nancy Aukeman** as her dad has entered hospice care and is nearing the end of his life. Pray for peace and comfort for the family.

Announcements

Missionaries of the Month: De León Family

Please pray for Gary's upcoming trip to Uganda. He is going to Uganda's largest refugee camp to celebrate Christmas at the orphanage for refugee children. Gary is Vice President of the board at this orphanage, and his area of focus is social media and sponsorship. They will be taking toys for each of the kids for their Christmas celebration! In addition, we are praising God for the opportunities we've had to share His word with refugee families in Spain. Gary is discipling a group of young men, and Rachel has a women's group. We feel like we are finally building deeper relationships this second year here in Spain! Donations for the De León family can be given anytime during the month of December.

Church Basement

We're completing the repair work in the basement, and because youth group stuff is in the open area, we ask that kids stay out again this week. Repairs will hopefully be finished this week!

Thank You

Mary Proos would like you all to know she really appreciated all your kind words and support upon the passing of Gary. It meant a lot to the family that so many came out to the funeral to be with them in their grief and pay respect to Gary.

Christmas Cards

We would like to bless the following people who currently are unable to worship with us with personal greetings: Marge Bolthuis, Jan DeWeese, Barb Funckes, Sandy Gleason, Tim Randall, Lorraine Smith and Connie Wierenga. We need them no later than next Sunday, December 15th. Please place the cards in the basket on the sign-up table in the narthex.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We will be celebrating Christmas together as a church body on Tuesday December 24 at 7:00pm. We'll worship God, reflect on the coming of Jesus, and spend time singing Christmas songs together. We even have new candle holders to help prevent wax from dripping all over the place! Make plans to join us that night to worship the Lord together!!!

Rooted

Tonight, we'll be celebrating the birth of Jesus with a youth group Christmas Extravaganza! The fun will begin at 6pm and end at 8pm. It's going to be a great time, so don't miss out!

'The Forge', a gathering for men.

Sign up today on the table in the narthex for The Forge, a gradual move forward, to form by heat in a forge and hammer into shape. We will have a meal at 6:30pm on Thursday, December 19th followed by 'The Forge'. Bring a friend. We will have a question to talk about. Come and see.

Nursery Help Needed

We are in need of help in the nursery on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 29. Let Mary Kay know if you are able to help.

Foundry Course: Spiritual Formation & Discipleship

What are the key practices of spiritual formation? How do individuals grow in deeper communion and intimacy with their triune God through spiritual rhythms? How does our own growth contribute to Spirit-empowered transformation in others' lives? Dr. Jeff Fisher will be engaging these questions and more in this class taught at Madison Place here in Grand Rapids. The class meets 12-3pm on Jan. 15, 29, Feb. 12, and 26. Register at www.thefoundrygr.org/iml/mss-madison.

Fourth Reformed Church



Empowered by the Spirit
to **follow** Jesus together, **serve** others,
and **share** God's love.
