



Order of Worship

Striving to be what Christ tells us through Scripture.

December 7, 2025 **2nd Sunday in Advent** 10 AM

PRELUDE *"While by the Sheep We Watched at Night"* arr. Lund
Amy Duran, piano

WELCOME Pastor Waldis

Our Approach to God

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 72

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

People: May he judge the people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

Leader: May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

People: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

People: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen.

*HYMN *"All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord"* #221

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (responsive)
Jeanne and Ed Serrano insert

CHANCEL CHOIR *"This Child, Emmanuel"* Jeremy Walton

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Pastor Waldis

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Word of God

*HYMN *"O Lord of Life, to Thee We Lift"* insert

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:3-8 p. 667 (OT)
 Matthew 3:1-9 p. 2 (NT)
 Ruth Cuffe, Liturgist

SERMON *“Jesus Loves the Little Children”* Pastor Waldis

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

*CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

 Meaning of the Sacrament (Responsive) insert
 Invitation
 Communion Prayer (Responsive) insert
 Communion
 Communion Thanksgiving (Responsive) insert

Our Response to God

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER #815

JOYS, THANKS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*HYMN *“Hark, What a Sound”* insert

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE *“People Look East”* arr. Larson
 Amy Duran, piano
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PRAYER CONCERNS: Anonymous; Roger Carman; Lauren Clarke; Harold Friedeman; Marilyn Hams; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Craig Terjanian; Sue Wood.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Ada and Emma Bolla on the passing of their husband and father, Dan. The service was held at Moritz Funeral Home in Closter this past Wednesday. Please keep the Bolla family in your prayers.

UNITY PRAYER: God, during this season of Advent, may Christ the Savior be born into the hearts and souls of those who don’t know him. May your joy fill our spirits, and may the peace of Christ be in the hearts of those who are hurting.

THE FLOWERS are given by Chris Doyle in loving memory of Jean Dollman and by Dorothy Abelman in loving memory of her parents and grandparents.

THIS WEEK

Today 11:15 Elders and Confirmands Meet
 11:15 Congregational Care
Tuesday Circle Christmas Gathering at Dages’
 7:30 Outreach
Wednesday 9:00 Courier Assembly
 7:00 Ramsey Wind Symphony
Thursday 7:00 Scouts in FH
 7:30 Chancel Choir
 7:30 Christian Ed Mtg.
Saturday 8:30 Men’s Group

Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

 10:00—Worship, Puppet Club and Sunday School
 11:00—Live Nativity Performance by the Sunday School
 3:00—Ramsey Wind Symphony Concert in Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES are in the pews for your convenience in contributing to our Christmas poinsettia display. Please make checks payable to Guild for Christian Service. Names of donors will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE has set up a Giving Tree in the Narthex to benefit New Hope, one of the missions we support, which was featured in last month’s Courier. Please take an ornament, purchase what’s on it, and bring it back to the Christmas Tree. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS – Wish your church family a Merry Christmas by placing a Christmas card on the bulletin board at the Spring Street entrance. A box of blank cards will be available if needed.

THE ORPHEUS MEN’S CHORUS, which includes Jim Lupfer and Paul Nelson, will perform a sacred, swingin’ and seasonally jazzy concert on Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 PM at Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church, 422 Cedar Hill Avenue in Wyckoff. Tickets are \$25 at the door or on their website at www.ridgewoodorpheusclub.org.

THE RAMSEY WIND SYMPHONY, of which Lori Anders and Judy Hunter are a part, will perform a free concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00. They will perform works by Alfred Reed, Astor Piazzolla, Leroy Anderson, Philip Sparke and others.

ATTENTION PARENTS! Please let Pastor Zach or Amy know whether you and/or your children will be available Christmas Eve. We are trying to plan for service and would appreciate your feedback.

LIGHTING AND SOLAR PANEL UPDATE -- On December 2nd your consistory met to consider proposals concerning updating our interior lighting and adding solar panels to our building. The consistory voted to sign a contract for updated interior lighting. The consistory also voted to reconsider the solar panels in the first quarter of next year.

Matthew 3: 1-9 Jesus Loves The Little Children

Exegesis (Background)

1. Repentance means to change your _____.

2. _____ identity will not save you.

3. He criticizes nationalistic _____.

Life Application

No one gets a _____ pass.

God loves people of _____ nations.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

Jeanne and Ed Serrano

Leader: John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And the people went out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

People: **AND JOHN SAID, "I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER FOR REPENTANCE, BUT ONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I IS COMING AFTER ME."**

from Matthew 3

Leader: Are you preparing the way for Christmas? It is not just that WE are busy with preparations. God is too.

People: **HE IS SENDING A MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY. GOD IS PREPARING US TO HEAR GOOD NEWS OF PEACE.**

Light one purple candle.

ALL: **Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come to prepare our lives for the Christ-Child. Strengthen us by your spirit so our lives reflect the light of your peace. Amen.**

Meaning of the Sacrament

Leader: Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, the holy supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.

People: We come in remembrance that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our flesh and blood and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law, even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.

Leader: By His death, resurrection, and ascension He established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by Him.

People: We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

Leader: In the breaking of the bread He makes Himself known to us as the true heavenly bread that strengthens us unto life eternal.

People: In the cup of blessing He comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

Leader: We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when His kingdom has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold Him, made like unto Him in His glory.

People: Since by His death, resurrection, and ascension Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body, so are we to receive this Supper in true love, mindful of the communion of saints.

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore Your glorious name.
People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:
People: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Communion Thanksgiving

Leader: Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at His Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving! Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
People: and do not forget all His benefits

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity,
People: Who heals all your diseases,

Leader: Who redeems your life from the Pit,
People: Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
People: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
People: so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

Leader: As far as the east is from the west,
People: So far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children,
People: So the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,

Leader: Who did not spare His own Son,
but gave Him up for us all,
and will also give us all things with Him.

People: Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen

Washington Gladden, 1897

FOREST GREEN: C. M. D.
Traditional English melody
Arr. by R. Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. O Lord of life, to Thee we lift Our hearts in praise for those,
2. Shine forth, O Light, that we may see, With hearts all un - a - fraid,
3. Light up Thy Word; the fet - tered page From kill - ing bond - age free:

Thy proph - ets, who have shown Thy gift Of grace that ev - er grows,
The mean - ing and the mys - ter - y Of things that Thou hast made:
Light up our way; lead forth this age In love's large lib - er - ty.

Of truth that spreads from shore to shore, Of wis - dom's wid - ening ray,
Shine forth, and let the dark - ling past Be - neath Thy beam grow bright;
O Light of light! with - in us dwell, Through us Thy ra - diance pour,

Of light that shin - eth more and more Un - to Thy per - fect day.
Shine forth, and touch the fu - ture vast With Thine un - trou - bled light.
That word and life Thy truths may tell, And praise Thee ev - er - more. A - MEN.

Music from *The English Hymnal*. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Frederick William Henry Myers (1843-1901)

WELWYN: 11, 10, 11, 10,
Alfred, Scott-Gatty, 1902

1. Hark, what a sound, and too di - vine for hear - ing,
2. Sure - ly He com - eth, and a thou - sand voi - ces
3. So e - ven I, and with a pang more thrill - ing,
4. Yea, through life, death, through sor - row and through sin - ning

Stirs on the earth and trem - bles in the air!
Shout to the saints and to the deaf are dumb;
So e - ven I, and with a hope more sweet,
He shall suf - fice me, for He hath suf - ficed;

Is it the thun - der of the Lord's ap - pear - ing?
Sure - ly He com - eth, and the earth re - joi - ces,
Yearn for the sign, O Christ, of Thy ful - fill - ing,
Christ is the end, for Christ was the be - gin - ning,

Is it the mu - sic of His peo - ple's prayer?
Glad in His com - ing who hath sworn, "I come,"
Faint for the flam - ing of Thine ad - vent feet.
Christ the be - gin - ning, for the end is Christ. A - MEN.

Music used by permission of Mrs. Denis Hyde and the Abbot of Downside.

JESUS CHRIST: HIS ADVENT



ADVENT

Welcome to the Community Church in Harrington Park!

We are glad you are here today. Here are a few things that might be helpful to you.

Large print hymnals are available, as well as hearing assistive devices. Please speak to an usher.

Restrooms are just outside the sanctuary in the main hallway opposite the office.

It would be a big help to us if you would either fill out one of the white pew cards in front of you and place it in the offering plate or sign the guest book on your way out.

The Community Church in Harrington Park

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