



Peace

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

—HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

ON EARTH PEACE. LUKE 2:14

THE LORD'S DAY
December 7, 2025 - Advent-Peace
9:30 AM Divine Worship

Piano Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - *Jonathon & TaMae Kats Family*

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

Song of Praise:

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

CH:1,3

Responsive Reading of God's Law

Song of Salvation:

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" PsH 338:1,3,4,6

Ministry of Music - "Breath of Heaven" - *Jamie Walhof-Ellenberger*

Congregational Prayer

***Song of Preparation: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** CH 250:1,2,4

*Children ages 2-4 invited to Children in Worship

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 1 John 2:1-27 (page 1132/1899)

Sermon: **"LOVING WHAT GOD DESIRES"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Response:**

"The Love of God"

PH 108:1-2

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Tuition Assistance & CEC

*Benediction

***Closing Song:**

"Once in Royal David's City"

PH 26:4

Piano Postlude

Pianist: Jackie Rus

*Please stand if you are able

**FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA
December 7, 2025
Advent-Peace**

We pray that everyone will enjoy the presence of the Lord among His people today as we bring our praises & prayers, and hear His Word proclaimed!

WELCOME!

TODAY

-- Program practice continues today for Preschool-6th grade after the morning worship service until 11:30am. Please meet in the Sanctuary. *Preschool children will not be dismissed until a parent is present to pick them up.*

-- Adult Choir please meet in Classroom #5 for practice after the morning worship service.

EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION

-- *A special thank you to Jonathon & TaMae Kats & family for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace, during our morning worship service.*

-- *Thank you to Jamie Walhof-Ellenberger for blessing us with your ministry of music during our morning worship service! We appreciate you sharing your talents with us!*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- The *first* offering received today will be for **Tuition Assistance**, and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for our **CEC**. The offerings for next week will be for The Genesis House and our General Fund.

From the Deacons: *We are \$32,000 from meeting the General Fund budget for 2025. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this deficit. Thank you!*

-- The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to share in the joy of Christmas together with our Care Center residents for a time of fellowship and fun while Christmas Caroling & playing Bingo this week **Thursday, December 11** at 6:30pm at both Whispering Heights and RiverView Ridge! Bring a snack to share! A sign-up sheet for each location is available on the table in the Narthex.

-- Next week **Sunday, December 14** is the **3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy**. Alex & Alexis Rust & family will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle of Joy during our morning worship service.

-- The Preschool - 6th Grade Christmas program will be held **Sunday, December 21** at 11:00am. Coffee and cookies will be served in the Fellowship Hall between the worship service and the program.

-- Our Candlelight service will be held the evening of **Sunday, December 21**.

-- Our Christmas Day service will be held **Thursday, December 25** at 9:30am.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

-- Installation of New Office Bearers will occur **Sunday, December 28** during our morning worship service.

-- **January 1, 2026**, we will be hosting the New Year's Day Community Worship Service.

-- The Catechism Refresh Class led by Pastor Matt will begin on **Wednesday, January 7**. This class is geared for those who actively want to discuss and understand the Heidelberg Catechism as adults. It will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm for 8 sessions. *Please follow the Church website calendar; some Wednesdays in between it will not be held due to other events happening.*

-- **1st CRC Book Club** - The 2026 Book Club will kick off on **Monday, January 12** at 6:30pm. Instead of pre-selecting a book to discuss, you are invited to bring a copy of your favorite book to share with the group. (A physical copy is not required if you are not able to get it.) All ages are welcome! Come learn about the authors/books others enjoy, and then provide input on future reads for the Church Book Club.

-- October Receipts: General Fund - \$85,116.14; Tuition Assistance - \$1,396.00; Building Fund - \$19,202.06; Mission Fund - \$9,797.86.

-- Everyone is invited to share their family photo Christmas card with our Church family. These photo cards can be hung on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

MISSION COMMITTEE PROJECT

-- **CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** The Mission Committee has chosen to support the two teams from our church going to Guatemala early next year for our Christmas Mission Project. 12 members of our congregation will be on the February team, and 9 members will be on the March team (which includes some of our Youth Group members). The teams will be working with Bethel Ministries International once again. They will be distributing wheelchairs, building homes, making home visits, and bringing supplies to the families that they meet. The Christmas trees in the Church Narthex have a variety of envelopes on them with different items that they will need to fund their trips. Flyer copies showing the list of the items needed are available by the trees. We are asking for the congregation's help with this gifting, if you are able. There is also a box by the trees to return your financial gifts. *We appreciate all of your support with this Christmas Mission Project!*

Remember

The power of our words only belongs in one place:

in the hands of the Holy Spirit,

who can help guide and guard our lips.

"Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips."

Psalms 141:3

December 7, 2025 - 2nd Sunday of Advent-Peace

PRAISE TEAM:

Lanae H, Lindsey VB,
James VB, Mer VO

USHERS:

East: Taylor K, Rick D
West: Joe M, Gene L

NURSERY:

AM: Jessica K, Titus H, Husdyn P
PM: Michelle K, Alison L

SOUND: Evan VB **VIDEO:** Rich R **PPT:** Carla J

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: *Leader:* Hadlie VB *Helper:* Harper VB

GREETERS:

AM: Jesse & Amber E
Kevin & Lori E

Brian & Renae F

PM: Justin & Josie F

Marv & Dee F

Austin & Hannah F

NARTHEX: Harlan & Priscilla

OFFERING:

AM: Tuition Assistance

PM: CEC

LETTERS:

Ribbens: Rob J

Maletoungou: Travis J

Klomprens: Dick J

PIANIST: Jackie R

December 14, 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Advent-Joy

PRAISE TEAM:

Holly H, Tracy B,
Andy VR, Benjamin H

USHERS:

East: Cody D, Mike B
West: Cole VDB, Titus H

NURSERY:

AM: Rhonda L, Tad M, Trevin VK
PM: Jacque L, Brennan VK

SOUND: Mike H **VIDEO:** Alex K **PPT:** Tammy B

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: *Leader:* Jamie DJ *Helper:* Teeghan B

GREETERS:

AM: Bob G & Arnold K
Brad & Nanci G

Galen & Elsie G

PM: Bob & Cherie G

Marva H

Kelly & Patty H

NARTHEX: Ron & Darletta

OFFERING:

AM: The Genesis House

PM: General Fund

LETTERS:

Ribbens: Kevin J

Maletoungou: Sara J

Klomprens: Jerad K

ORGANIST: Ranae K

Nursery Volunteers: If you would like your name added to the nursery helper list, please contact Kelsey Ver Burg or sign up on the sheet in the nursery **by December 15!** If you would like your name removed, please do the same. Anyone 4th grade and older is welcome! The next schedule will be Jan-May 2026.



-- Wednesday, December 17 - Christmas Party



-- Meeting - Wednesday, December 10 - 7:00pm at First CRC

-- Meeting - Wednesday, December 17 - 7:00pm at First CRC

-- Snow Derby - Saturday, January 3



-- Meeting - Wednesday, December 10 - 6:45pm at Calvin CRC

SERMON NOTES:

December 7, 2025

TODAY: **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - *2nd Sunday of Advent-Peace*
10:45 AM: K-6 Christmas Program Practice/Adult Choir practice
6:00 PM: Evening Worship Service
7:15 PM: Saved to Serve Bible Study

TUES: **9:45 AM:** Coffee Break - Lesson 12

WED: **6:30 PM:** Council Members New/Retiring Christmas Supper
6:45 PM: GEMS
7:00 PM: CADETS

THURS: **6:30 PM:** Christmas Caroling & Bingo at Senior Center & RiverView Ridge

PRAYER REMINDERS

Health, Healing, & Peace

- ♦ Rick Davelaar (CG#3), Gert Van Regenmorter (CG#1), Galen & Paula Kats (CG#1), Gerrit Kats (CG#4), Starla Van Otterloo (CG#1), Tracy Hoogendoorn (CG#2), Nate Van Kley (CG#1)
- ♦ Family/Friends of Our Church Family: Gerald Van Den Top, Judy Wesselink, Hazel Van Der Brink, Jason Davelaar, and Rev. Dan De Groot

Our Care Center Residents:

Four Seasons

Teresa Oostra (CG#6)
Don & Lois Postma (CG#3)

Whispering Heights

Claretta Lobbes (CG#5)
Grace Teunissen (CG#8)
Alvina Van't Hul (CG#6)
Harvey & Joanne Van Otterloo (CG#6)

River View Ridge

Nathan Dorhout (CG#2)
Jim Driesen (CG#6)
Gerrit & Esther Kats (CG#4)
LeRoy & Jane Koedam (CG#3)
Henrietta Vanden Bosch (CG#4)

Hull - Pleasant Acres

Jerry Velgersdyk (CG#7)

Crown Pointe - SC

Harriet Vande Kamp (CG#5)

Missionaries

- ♦ Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens - Johannesburg, South Africa
- ♦ Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletoungou - West Africa
- ♦ Rev. Mark K Family - classically supported missionaries in Nepal



Classical Missions

- ♦ Amistad Cristiana

Classis Iakota - www.classisiakota.org/classis-documents

Denominational Requests

- ♦ (Resonate) *Church plants* - Please pray for our denomination's church plants across Canada and the United States in this Advent season. May God give them creativity and courage to reach their communities, share the good news of Jesus, and invite many people to experience the hope of the gospel.

Outreach

- ♦ **Orphan Grain Train**

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday - Sawyer Van Otterloo

Monday - Jensen WhiteFeather-Koedam

Wednesday - Treyton Kats, Tyke Kats, Cooper Koedam

Thursday - Priscilla Driesen

Saturday - Grace Van Grootheest (85)

FUTURE DATES

A helpful glance in advance of special events encompassing First CRC!

December 21 - K-6 Christmas Program - AM & Candlelight PM Service

December 25 - Christmas Service

December 28 - Installation of Office Bearers

December 29 - Council Meeting

January 1 - New Year's Combined Service at First CRC

January 3 - CADET Snow Derby

January 11 - Youth Sunday

January 12 - Book Club Kick-off for 2026

January 12-16 - Meals on Wheels

January 13 - Deacons available for Expansion donations

January 18 - Baptism Sunday/Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 25 - CADET Sunday

January 26 - Council Meeting

January 28 - The Banquet Service Date

January 30 - CADET Pinewood Derby

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rock Valley Christian School:

- ◇ SCRIIP Orders due Monday, December 8 - 9:00am
- ◇ Rock Valley Christian will be hosting Coffee Cuttin' Club on Monday, December 8 at 9:30am at RVCS. Any questions please contact Mary De Groot at mary.degroot@rockvalleychristian.com.
- ◇ 2:30pm dismissal - Wednesday, December 10
- ◇ **Attention Grain Farmers!** Please remember the annual Winter Festival Grain Project when delivering your corn to Doon Elevator, Farmers Elevator, and/or Valley Feed and Seed. The Winter Festival is slated for Friday, February 13th. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*
- ◇ -- RVCS Board Winter Festival Committee: Jack Ver Burg, Brad Vanden Bosch, and Jake Faber

Western Christian High School:

- ◇ 9:25am start - Wednesday, December 10
- ◇ The WCHS Christmas Concert is Monday, December 15 at the Western Event Center. The bands and orchestra will begin at 7:00 PM with the vocal portion of the evening beginning at 8:00 PM. Please make plans to join us!
- ◇ Will you prayerfully consider "Celebrating Western" with a year-end gift? Gifts and funds raised will be given to the General Fund for capital improvements. *Thank You to those who have already contributed to the mission of WCHS!*
- ◇ The Bargain Alley Furniture Outlet is in need of volunteers to collect and deliver furniture and mattresses. You do not need to come to the store, just be available to help in your town as needed. Please call 712-439-6802 or 712-441-1270 if you are interested or have any questions. *Thank you!*

Rock Valley Community School:

- ◇ 2:00pm dismissal - Wednesday, December 10

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - www.firstcrcrv.org/resources

6:00 PM Divine Worship

Piano Prelude

Hymn Sing

"May the People Praise You"

GH:1,2,4,5

"Majesty"

PH 66:1

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting

***Song of Praise: "Awesome God"**

***The Apostles' Creed** (in unison)

***Song of Response: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"** CH:1

The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 40 Q/A 105-107 (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

***Song of Preparation:**

"The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"

CH 334:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 2 Kings 17:24-42 (page 335/601)

Sermon: **"PERSISTING IN EVIL"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Application:**

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

GH:1-3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: CEC

*Benediction

***Closing Song:**

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

GH:4

*Piano Postlude

Pianist: Jackie Rus

*Please stand if you are able

