



Hope

*The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

—O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

THE SON OF GOD IS COME. 1 JOHN 5:20

THE LORD'S DAY
November 30, 2025 - Communion/Advent-Hope
9:30 AM Divine Worship

Piano Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - *Darin & Lisa Pollema Family*

Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting/We Greet One Another

Song of Praise:

"Come, People of the Risen King"

GH:1-3

Responsive Reading of God's Law

Song of Salvation:

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

CH 245:1,3,4

Congregational Prayer

***Song of Preparation: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** CH:1-2

*Children ages 2-4 invited to Children in Worship

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 1 John 1 (page 1132/1898)

Sermon: **"WHY THE WORD COMES"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Response:**

"O Come All You Unfaithful"

SS:1-4

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Sioux City Gospel Mission & Building Fund

*Benediction

***Closing Song: "Once in Royal David's City"**

PH 26:4

Piano Postlude

Pianist: Krista Van Engen

*Please stand if you are able

FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA
November 30, 2025
Communion/1st Sunday of Advent-Hope

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

-- We have the privilege of celebrating the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during our morning worship service. We invite all who have publicly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus their Savior in a Bible-believing church and are in good standing to partake of the elements today.

**Reminder: The center cups are grape juice, and the outer cups are wine.*

-- 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.

-- This evening we welcome Rev. Bob Drenten as he leads our worship service. *Thank you for being with us Rev. Drenten!*

-- December Faith & Life Newsletters are available in the bulletin racks.

-- CHURCH DIRECTORY: **Final call!** Please return your family profile sheets by **TODAY!** If you would like a new picture for your profile, please submit your new photo by email to Kim at secretary@firstcrrv.org.

EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE & APPRECIATION

-- *A special thank you to Darin & Lisa Pollema & family for providing the reading and prayer and lighting the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope, during our morning service.*

-- *Dear 1st CRC, Thank you so much for serving us the delicious meal after our service. Those home cooked meals are always the best. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. It's people like you who truly make a difference in the world. Thanks again for joining us for service and providing excellent food for our flock.*

--*Serving our Risen Lord & Savior together, Freedom's Gate Church*

-- *Dear Congregation: Thank you for stepping into God's mission through your generous support of Resonate! Through your church's giving to Resonate, your congregation has taken a step of faith into a bigger story to which God has called us as members of the global church. You have taken a step to share the gospel—and God is using your church's mission and generosity to bring transformation to lives, families, and communities all over the world! God's story is bigger than we could ever imagine, and we all have a part to play in this story. In a world marred by hunger, sickness, violence, grief, and despair, the gospel is good news. Your congregation is walking alongside Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders as they share the good news of the gospel that brings fullness, healing, peace, and hope! Thank you for joining people all over the world on their faith journeys. Through your partnership with Resonate, your church is not only a donor—you are a member of the global church who is responding to God's call to spread the gospel among peoples and nations! -- Serving with you, Kevin DeRaaf, Director, Resonate Global Mission*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The *first* offering received today will be for the **Sioux City Gospel Mission**, and the *second* offering and *evening* offering will be for our **Building Fund**. The offerings for next week will be for Tuition Assistance and our CEC.
- 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.
- The Elders/Deacons will have a Council meeting **Monday, December 1** at 6:30pm.
- *The Deacons will be available this week **Tuesday, December 2** from 7:00-8:30pm in the Council Room to collect donations for the Narthex Expansion project. The next date they will be available will be Tuesday, January 13.*
- Next week **Sunday, December 7**, is the **2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace**. Jonathon & TaMae Kats & family will be sharing the Advent reading and lighting the candle of Peace during our morning worship service.
- The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to share in the joy of Christmas together with our Care Center residents for Christmas Caroling & Bingo on **Thursday, December 11** at 6:30pm at both Whispering Heights & RiverView Ridge!
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.

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. A listing of these items with their cost will also be placed in your church mailbox for your reference. We are asking for the congregation's help with this gifting, if you are able. There will be a box in the Narthex to return your financial gifts. *We appreciate all of your support with this Christmas Mission Project!*

November 30, 2025 - Communion/1st Sunday of Advent-Hope

SONG LEADER:

Evan VB

USHERS:

East: Arnold K, Bob G

West: Benjamin H, Keith L

NURSERY:

AM: Aftyn B, Teeghan B, Jaelyn K

Sloan M, Peyton R

PM: Kristin J, Noah DK

GREETERS:

AM: Ron & Darletta L

Tim & Kim VT

Leonard & Deb H

PM: Jaden & Katlien DB

Tyler & Alli DB

Michael & Jamie E

NARTHEX: Vern & Ellen

OFFERING:

AM: Sioux City Gospel Mission

PM: Building Fund

LETTERS:

Ribbens: Betty H

Maletoungou: Darwin H

Klompens: Kyle H

PIANIST: Krista VE

SOUND: Jack VB **VIDEO:** Brian F **PPT:** Benjamin H

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

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

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

Klompens: Dick J

PIANIST: Jackie R

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

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

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 made for January-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, December 27



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

SERMON NOTES:

November 30, 2025

TODAY: **9:30 AM:** Morning Worship Service - *Communion/1st Sunday of Advent-Hope*
10:45 AM: K-6 Christmas Program Practice/Adult Choir practice
6:00 PM: Evening Worship Service - *Guest Pastor: Rev. Bob Drenten*

MON: **6:30 PM:** Council Meeting

TUES: **9:45 AM:** Coffee Break - Lesson 11
7:00-8:30 PM: Deacons available for Narthex Expansion Donations

WED: **7:00 PM:** IGNITE Youth Group
 Together in Faith Bible Study - Exodus #5
 Men's Society - Chapter 3

THURS: **1:30 PM:** LIFT Bible Study - Lesson 7 - Lunch: Joyce VE/Karla VK

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), Brock Mulder (CG#7), 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

- ♦ Siouxland Unity CRC

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

Denominational Requests

- ♦ (Resonate) *Worldwide* - Give thanks with us that we are part of God's global church! Please pray for Resonate missionaries, campus ministers, church planters, and partners who join in God's mission in communities around the world. May the Holy Spirit work through us all to spread the gospel so that people of all nations will know the love of Jesus!

Outreach

- ♦ Orphan Grain Train

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday - Harvey Van Otterloo (88)

Monday - Aiden Hernandez

Tuesday - Ada Kirkley, *the Vern Van Beek's*

Wednesday - Tim Van Tilburg, Sr.

Thursday - Alex Rust, Colton Van Otterloo

Friday - Harold Driesen (91)

Saturday - Clarence De Roon (88), Harriett Van Zanten (90)

FUTURE DATES

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

December 11 - Christmas Caroling & Bingo at Whispering Heights & RiverView Ridge

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

December 25 - Christmas Service

December 27 - CADET Snow Derby

December 28 - Installation of Office Bearers

December 29 - Council Meeting

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

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 1 - 9:00am
- ◇ 2:30pm dismissal - Wednesday, December 3
- ◇ RVCS Christmas Program - Thursday, December 4 - 6:30pm at Trinity CRC - All are welcome!
- ◇ ARROWS Prayer Warriors - Friday, December 5 - 8:30am - All are welcome to join in prayer for our Resource, Enrichment, Social Work.
- ◇ ***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 3
- ◇ 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 3

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - www.firstcrrcv.org/resources

6:00 PM Divine Worship

Piano Prelude

Call to Worship - *Daniel 2:20-22*

Silent Prayer

*Declaration of Trust in God

*God's Greeting

***Song of Praise:**

"O Worship the King, All-Glorious Above" PsH 315:1,3,4

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

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

The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 12 Q/A 31-32 (read responsively)

Congregational Prayer

***Songs of Preparation:**

"What Child Is This?" PH 30:1,3

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" CH:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5 (page 949/1590)

Sermon: **"CAESAR'S EMPIRE AND GOD'S KINGDOM"**

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Preached Word

***Song of Application:**

"Joy to the World" BsH 337:1-3

Offertory Prayer/Offering: Building Fund

*Benediction

***Closing Song:**

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" PH 29:5

*Piano Postlude Pianist: Krista Van Engen

*Please stand if you are able

