

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, December 11, 2022 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of hope, as night workers long for the sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ. In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit to give us a glimpse of your glory, that one day we will see in full, when all will be made new, through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

PRELUDE

Linda Clugston, organ

INTROIT "Christmas Carol Fest III" – Douglas E. Wagner

Chancel Bell Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Philippians 2:5–11 NLT)

Cheryl Minnig

One: Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

All: **Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.**

One: When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

All: **Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,**

One: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

All: **and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

HYMN #49, vs. 1, 2, 4 "Once in Royal David's City"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

HYMN #2, vs. 1–2 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. *(silence for reflection)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

BLESSING OF CHILDREN AND DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Emily Mitchell

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1–5, 14–18

Cheryl Minnig

HYMN #53 "What Child is This?"

SERMON "We Have Seen His Glory"

Neil Trainer

OFFERING "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" – arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon

Chancel Bell Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

Emily Mitchell

HYMN #31 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Clugston, organ

Congregational News

Betty Hedge, beloved saint in the household of God, died on December 3, 2022. Betty was 99 years old and a member of Calvin Presbyterian Church since 1967. Betty's family is planning a service at Calvin in April 2023; the date and time will be determined later. Please give thanks to God for Betty's long and good life; we can celebrate that, for Betty, pain is no more and her work has ended and that she has now received her crown of glory in God's eternal kingdom. Pray for the consoling Holy Spirit to be at work in all of Betty's family members, especially Dick Bean, as everyone grieves the loss of Betty; she will be deeply missed.

Longest Night Service Tonight

// 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Do you find the holidays difficult? Does this time of year bring up memories of pain and loss? Are you grieving? If you are one of the many people who find the Christmas season challenging, know that this service has been designed especially for you.

With music, contemplation, and prayer, we will cling to God's light in the darkness of this season. As we bring our whole selves to God, we will remember and be renewed in the love and faithfulness of the God who comes near to us in Jesus Christ — the One who is still with us today.

12-Bells at Swanson's Nursery

// This afternoon at 4 pm

Messy Church Sparks Joy

// A wonderful celebration of Christ's birth

It was wonderful to gather as a new worshiping community in the Activity Center this past Wednesday. The theme was "Messy Christmas" and the activities and storytelling involved people of all ages. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who help make these monthly worship services celebrative and hospitable to newcomers.



Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, October 14th email.

A Lesson in Trust

// by Christi Nixon

When I was growing up, I always seemed to have faith that God would be there for me. My mom had multiple sclerosis (M.S.) and I watched her live life with courage and grace. When I was in seventh grade, I came home one day and heard a faint cry, "Christi, help!" I found my mother stuck between the toilet and bathtub. The phone was on the counter just out of her reach.

"Mom, what happened? How long have you been stuck?" She had been stuck like that for over eight hours! I tried to pull her loose. She prayed out loud that I would have enough strength to pull her out. I prayed that I would know exactly what to do.

After about five minutes of trying, I determined I was not strong enough and I called my dad. I wanted to panic.

This moment was a defining moment in my life. In my mother, I saw a clear example of trusting God. She knew that He would be there in times of trouble. And He would help guide me in difficult moments. He would help me with panic and anxiety. From that day forward, I learned to go to God in times of difficulty or whenever I feel the desire to panic. God helped my mother to face her M.S. with fortitude and trust — I saw that many, many times, but never so clearly as in this particular incident. As I learned to do from my mother, I want to encourage all of you to trust God in times of trouble, fear, or panic.



Happy Birthday!

Mickey Julius.....	Dec. 12
Promise Rose Juengel...	Dec. 15
Kelley Neubauer	Dec. 15
Connie Graebner	Dec. 16
Dean Rowley.....	Dec. 19
John Claus.....	Dec. 20
Kristi Trainer.....	Dec. 20
Al Lutz.....	Dec. 22
Jonas Chase.....	Dec. 23
Linda Elton.....	Dec. 24



Upcoming Events

12-Bells at Swanson's Nursery, 4 pm	Dec. 11
Longest Night Service at 7 pm.....	Dec. 11
Christmas Pageant	Dec. 18
Christmas Eve Service...	Dec. 24
Christmas Day Service...	Dec. 25
Messy Church, 5:30 pm in the Activity Center.....	Jan. 04