

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 3, 2023 • 10:00 AM • First Sunday of Advent



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things that hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE Ukrainian Bell Carol

Linda Clugston, *organ*, & Laurel Underwood, *piano*

WELCOME & GREETING

Neil Trainer

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Isaiah 9:2–7 NLT

Lee & Brenda Simpkins

SONG OF PRAISE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #2, vv. 1–2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

Lord, we have not kept watch for you.

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

Help us to wait to know your will.

Help us to look out for the needs of others.

Help us to work and watch for your coming,

even now as we sit and pray in silence. *(silence for personal prayer)*

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 OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

FIRST FRUITS COLLECTION, BLESSING, & DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING & ADVENT SONG “People, Look East” #12, vv. 1–5

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:25–38 NLT

Greg Terman

SERMON “God in the Midst of Waiting”

Neil Trainer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PASTORAL PRAYER

Emily Mitchell

SONG OF SENDING “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #9, vv. 1–3

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Clugston, *piano*



Messy Church this Wednesday!

// Join us Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 7 pm

At Messy Church this week, all ages will gather together to learn about Jesus, Mary, and the Angel Gabriel. There will be Christmas crafts, activities, music, story, and prayer. We'll enjoy pizza, veggies, and birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall (and we'll sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus!). We hope you'll join us – and please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives, too.

Come Christmas Caroling

// Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Crista

All ages are invited to participate in the Messy Middle Christmas Caroling at Crista on Wednesday, December 13. The caroling will begin at the upper campus – the memory care and assisted living center – at 4:45 pm; and then carolers will move to sing at the lower campus, Cristwood Park, at 5:30 pm. Hot cocoa will be provided at the conclusion of the event. You may participate in either caroling event, or both of them! Contact [Pastor Emily](#) for more information.

Longest Night Service

// Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm

On Sunday evening, December 17, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, we are holding a "Longest Night" service of music, contemplation, and prayer. This service is open to everyone. With selected readings and instrumental music, we will cling to God's light in the darkness of this season – because we recognize that not everything about this time of year is merry or bright. During the service, we

will bring our whole selves to God and be reminded of, and renewed in, the love and faithfulness of the God who comes near to us in Jesus and who is with us still today.

Christmas Choir Forming Now

// Choose the most convenient times to rehearse

You may not be able to sing with the angels, but you *can* sing with Calvin's Christmas Choir. We'll be singing the morning of December 17 in a special worship service of music, readings, and scripture. We're also hoping to gather a very small ensemble to sing at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Dec. 24 at 7 pm.

[Laurel](#) can email you the music we'll be singing. The pieces are simple enough that coming to any one of three rehearsals should be sufficient. Choose the most convenient times to rehearse: [today after worship](#), or a 7 pm Wednesday rehearsal (Dec. 5th or 12th). Come to as many of the rehearsals as is convenient.

We can't have a choir without singers, so come! Sing with us!

Support Vision House this Christmas!

Vision House is a transitional housing program in Shoreline that supports families as they recover from trauma and homelessness. Calvin has partnered with them since 2013 – for ten years. This Advent, Calvin will be participating in the Vision House Giving Tree effort. See the display in the foyer for more information or contact [Donna Miller-Parker](#) with questions.

New Banners Unveiled Today

*I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.
– Psalm 26:8*

Stained-glass windows have been part of the Christian experience for centuries, enhancing our worship and praising God through color and light. "Reflections of Glory" is a new permanent banner installation behind the choir loft that complements and reflects the stained-glass windows at the west end of the Calvin sanctuary.

*With appreciation to the
Calvin Banner Team:
Jan Christophersen, Cindy Darling,
Dorothy Lindstrom, Christi Nixon,
Ruth Van Dyke, and Marilyn Wirtz.*



Happy Birthday!

- Arden Snyder Dec. 03
- Greta Juengel Dec. 04
- Lela Jamieson Dec. 09
- Mickey Julius Dec. 12
- Promise Rose Juengel... Dec. 15
- Kelley Neubauer Dec. 15
- Connie Graebner Dec. 16



Upcoming Events

- Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 am.. Today!
- Advent Service Project
*Assemble Hygiene SmilePacks
of toiletries for children in need.*
..... Dec. 03–Jan. 14
- GriefShare, 10 am Dec. 06
- Messy Church, 5:30 pm.... Dec. 06
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm Dec. 06
- Memorial Reception for
Linda Elton, 11:45 am ... Dec. 10
- 12-Bells at Swanson's
Nursery, 3 pm..... Dec. 10
- Christmas Caroling, 4:45 pm &
5:30 pm at Crista Dec. 13
- Longest Night, 7 pm Dec. 17
- Sunday Worship, 10 am... Dec. 24
- Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service, 7 pm..... Dec. 24