
Advent 2017 • Emmanuel—God with Us

In the season of Advent, we celebrate the fact that God is on the move. God is coming to be with God's people. We celebrate the coming of God to his people in 1st century Palestine in the person of Jesus Christ. We anticipate the return of Jesus. As we hope and pray, God is with us. And God is coming to make all things new! So we celebrate what God has done in and through Jesus and we hope for the complete fulfillment of all God's promises to renew all things. We have not been abandoned by God. Any sense of loneliness is countered by God's presence in the Holy Spirit and Jesus' promise to return.

Pastor John & Pastor Ryan

December 3, 2017

9:30 am • Pastor Ryan Boes • Mark 13:24-31

Loving God, Serving People

We welcome you into our community and our lives. Following this morning's worship, we invite you to join us for a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Babies & Young Children

A nursery for children 2 years and younger is next to the kitchen off of the Fellowship Hall. Children, 3, 4, and 5 years old who have not started Kindergarten will be dismissed before the sermon to room 27 for Preschool Church Hour.

Aids to Worship

Hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex. Please ask our greeters for assistance.



Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church

1717 Broadway, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 • 734-665-0105 • office@aacrc.org • www.aacrc.org

9:30 worship

Lectionary scripture passages for today:
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37

God ... *With Us??*

Prelude: Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel*

Larry Mayfield, Derric Johnson;
arr. M.F. McLaughlin

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

*O that God would tear open the heavens
and come down!
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.
Be alert! Keep awake!
The time is drawing near ...
This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.*

***Song of Preparation:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Red Hymnal 61

choir and team: vs. 1; all: chorus, vss. 3,4

***Prayer:**

*God of power unexpected,
we want you to tear open the heavens and come down;
to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall
until all nations tremble at your presence!
But you,
you will not perform according to our wants and whims.
Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence:
Thin. Quiet.
Instead you are born among us as an infant.
Instead you show us how love is made
perfect in weakness.*

**So we will stay alert,
or at least we will try,
because we are your people
and there is no other God besides you. Amen.**

***Song of Acclamation:** *Everlasting God*

Brenton Brown and Ken Riley
© 2005 Thankyou Music

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.
We will wait upon the Lord.
We will wait upon the Lord.

*Please stand if you are able.

Our God You reign forever;
Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God.
You do not faint,
You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak,
You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

***We Receive God's Greeting and Greet One Another**

Children's Time

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

Congregation: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

(Children in the Preschool Church Hour Class dismissed to Room 27.)

God ... With Us!

Invitation to Reflection

We wait for our everlasting God. We celebrate that our God is with us now. We are your people. O God attend to us now! Help us quiet our souls to listen for you. For you are here. For you will come again. We come to you now in silence bringing our unspoken hopes. We lift them to you and open ourselves to your voice.

Silence

Song of Yearning: *My Soul in Stillness Waits* Red Hymnal 63:1-3
solo: verses; all: refrains

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy

Congregational Response: Hear our prayer.

Song of Readiness: *My Soul in Stillness Waits* Red Hymnal 63:4

We Present our Gifts & Offerings for:

1. The Lord's work through AACRC
2. Fridsro Christmas Party

Choral Offertory: *A Litany for Advent*

Shirley McRae

Lord Jesus come to us, we pray.
Bring us your truth, show us your way,
as once the prophets did foretell,
oh, come to us, Immanuel.

The universe is in our care,
help us protect, help us to share,
send us your peace, your glad Noel,
oh, come to us, Immanuel.

Our world is torn in war and sin,
our people hurt, without, within,
your healing love will make us well,
oh, come to us, Immanuel.

Prepare our hearts, tell all the earth,
that we may celebrate your birth.
Oh, enter in our lives to dwell,
oh, come to us, Immanuel.

Scripture: Mark 13:24-31

Message: "The Temple, Figs, and Emmanuel"

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Institution and Invitation

Communion

This morning we celebrate communion. All who love Jesus Christ, trust in him alone for their salvation, and agree to be his disciple are invited to join with us in this celebration.

With thanks and joy, take the bread and dip it into the cup. If you are unable to proceed to the front of the sanctuary to partake of communion, remain seated and the elements will be brought to you.

Music for Meditation

Let Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Fernando Ortega
from Red Hymnal 821

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***We Receive God's Parting Blessing**

***Song for Departure:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Red Hymnal 61:6

***Postlude:** *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Marcel Dupré

Pastors: Ryan Boes, John Groen

Worship Team: Adult Choir, Jen Boes, Priscilla Carlson, Victor Chen, Doug Egedy,
Leanne Groen, Louise Gruppen, Paul Herrema, Veena Kulkarni, Chase Lancaster,
Marilyn McLaughlin, Jan Musch, Mike Wilson, Joe Yunkman

AACRC Staff

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today

Sunday Morning • 9:30 am

- Preacher: Ryan Boes
- Scripture: Mark 13:24-31
- A special offering will be received for the Fridsro Christmas Party, see inside for details.

Youth Ministry

- Preschool Church Hour class will meet during worship in Room 27 for children 3-5 years of age who have not started Kindergarten. The children will be dismissed to their class during the worship service.
- 10:50–Sunday School (pre-K through 1st grade) in Room 28
- 10:50–Sunday School (2nd – 5th grade) in Room 23
- 10:50–Savior Servant Singers in Room 19
- 11:10–Middle School Sunday School in Rooms 12 & 13
- 11:10–REACH in Youth Room

Adult Sunday School • 11:10 am

- In Room 24, sharing Christmas memories.
- Adult Ed downstairs in Room 18, led by George Lindquist and Tom Trevethan.
- Downstairs in Room 17, BESEL Sunday School, studying the Bible in English, sing Gospel songs in different languages. Teachers: Mark and Naomi Nah Schult, Yang Liu, Jukie Wilson.

next sunday • dec 10

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- Preacher: John Groen
- Scripture: Mark 1:1-8
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announcements & reminders

Worship This Morning

As we adjust to a new rhythm of worshipping together in a single service, please sit toward the center of the pew if you are able (if you don't have offering, communion, or other responsibilities), to ensure that there is space for everyone. Also, please note that there is overflow seating in our Adult Sunday School room (Room 24), where the service will be broadcast on a large screen TV.

Adult Ed: Christmas Memories

Do you have special memories of Christmas to share, or would you like to hear from others about the interesting ways (and places) they've celebrated Christmas? If you do, please come to our Adult Ed session this morning.

Special Offering for Fridsro—Today

For quite a few years, we have had a special offering to help cover the costs of gifts and treats for a Christmas meal and party at the Children's Home in Sri Lanka. The Fridsro Christmas party/meal is a much-needed and appreciated encouragement for the both the staff and all the children. The cost for this party is close to \$4,800. Those who wish to join in sponsoring this party can make a check out to AACRC with "Fridsro/Christmas Party" on the memo line.

Soup Group

For this week, Soup Group will be meeting for lunch and fellowship at 12 noon today in Room 23, down the hall from the kitchen. All post high school young adults are welcome to join us for soup and sharing

Advent CONNECT Night

December 10th we'll have our annual Carol Sing, Youth Singing Groups, and Chili Supper. It will begin at 5 PM as we hear our three youth singing groups and also sing some carols. Afterward, around 6, we will have a chili potluck meal.

Lessons & Carols Save the Date

On December 17 at 6 PM, join the adult choir as they present the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Special Offering

The special offering received on Thanksgiving Day for Food Gatherers amounted to \$1,294.99. Thank you for your support!

Nursery Help Needed!

We are in need of 2-3 people to be in the nursery on December 24th. If you re around and willing to serve will you let Nursery Coordinator Jen Ruth (jennymayr@gmail.com) or Carolyn (office@aacrc.org) know?

Sunday School Offering

Our students are collecting their Sunday School tithe for "kid selected: World Renew Gap Gifts. Our goal is to raise \$500.00 this program year. The students may turn in their collection at the beginning of Sunday School on Sunday, December 10. Please bring the coins or bills collected in an envelope or Ziploc bag labeled World Renew Collection and list the amount enclosed. Thank you for encouraging this "holy habit" of stewardship.

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight will be held tomorrow evening in the fellowship hall. All women and highschool girls who have made a reservation should arrive by 6:45 p.m. Please use the front doors to the church and pick up your nametag with your table # printed on it. The Lord will be here among us to give all of us a blessing!

Stress: Constraining forces or influences that can cause bodily or mental tension

We've all felt it and know what it is. But sometimes the stress level reaches a point where things begin to break. Don't let your stress reach that point. Stephen Ministers are available to help you work through life's difficulties and to give you a safe, confidential place to vent your troubles. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact one of the pastors, Louise Gruppen or Marian Ijzerman.

Stephen Minister Training

Do you have the desire to walk alongside someone who is hurting? Is God calling you to use your gifts to become a Stephen Minister? On January 14, we will have an adult Sunday School class to explain the process and time commitments of becoming and being a Stephen Minister. We'll talk about the training that is provided and answer any questions you may have. If you have even the slightest interest, please come and learn more about it!

Nurses Needed

Volunteer Nurses are needed for Hope Clinic's Ypsilanti and Wayne Medical Clinics. Volunteers provide vital services for our patients in the clinic on weekdays and Saturdays. You can come in for 4-5 hours on a weekly, biweekly or monthly basis. We appreciate at least a year commitment and are able to work with a variety of schedules.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Provide clinic nursing taking vitals and histories, rooming, supporting clinicians, and managing patient flow
- Staff the medication room assisting clinicians in preparing and dispensing medications
- Stock exam rooms with essential supplies

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these roles or would like learn more about the volunteer opportunities at Hope, contact Connie Hallom at 734-484-2989 x 203 or challom@thehopeclinic.org

AACRC Weekly Calendar

Today, December 3

9:30 AM Morning Worship
10:50 AM Sunday School
11:10 AM Adult Ed
12:00 PM Soup Group, Room 23

Monday, December 4

6:30 AM AA New Awakening
6:45 PM Advent by Candlelight

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 AM AA New Awakening
9:30 AM & 1:15 PM Coffee Break
7:00 PM Tuesday Night Dinner
at Lindquist's home
7:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 6

6:30 AM AA New Awakening
6:30 & 8:00 AM Men's Prayer & Study
6:30 PM GEMS/Cadets/Roots
7:00 PM Choir

Thursday, December 7

6:30 AM AA New Awakening
10:00 AM Crafters
10:00 AM Prayer in the Prayer Room
7:00 PM Friendship Ministry

Friday, December 8

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

Saturday, December 9

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 10

9:30 AM Morning Worship
10:50 AM Sunday School
11:10 AM Adult Ed

Assisting This Week 12/3

Coffee Servers

9:30 Ross & Deb Weener
Konstantin & Theresa Tanin

Nursery

9:30 Sue De Zeeuw, Mary Admiraal
Darian Karr &/or Elaina Baker

Preschool Church Hour

9:30 Louise Gruppen, Sara Bush
Nicole Michmerhuizen
Zachary Redder

Assisting Next Week 12/10

Coffee Servers

9:30 Ron Heys & Sue Holdaway Heys
Mark Schult & Naomi Nah Schult

Nursery

9:30 Melissa Swieringa
Jim & Jennifer Bryson

Preschool Church Hour

9:30 Theresa Tanin
Mary Herrema
Dan Hubers, Eva Doorlag



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Fall Came: Internationals Arrived

After a high energy and fruitful summer at AACRC by way of the youth SERVE program, in September and October our church opened the doors to 92 international visiting scholars, post-docs, students and children from all over world, including Viet Nam, Iran, South Korea, Japan and China.



Once again, autumn was a time of hospitality as we reached out to guests from other nations residing within our community, welcoming new arrivals to Ann Arbor by providing them with cross-cultural opportunities. The Fall Tutoring Program consisted of weekly Conversational English Tutoring for adults, ESL for children and an American Culture class. It created opportunities for internationals to meet and establish friendships with 36 caring members of our community through 330 separate tutoring and teaching sessions.

These cross-cultural connections were extended through 26 invitations to 55 internationals for dinner in an American home. The transforming of initial hospitality into friendships between congregants and our guests from other nations is becoming an ongoing feature of the AACRC ministry to internationals through over 17 Conversation Partnerships.

These friendships, enduring into winter, spring and summer of 2018 – and sometimes beyond - while the international is in Ann Arbor, involve meaningful cross-cultural relationships which express God's love and grace in a variety of ways.

We are both grateful to God for connecting our congregation with so many guests from other nations and trusting God to make these relationships fruitful in the months and years to come. \

