

9:30 worship

Teach Us the Way of Love

Prelude: *Oh Light*

words & music: Lisa Gungor; arr. by Jeff Moore
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***We Receive God's Greeting**

***Song:** *King of Love*

Adam Palmer, Jonathan Smith,
Matthew Hein, Stephanie Kulla, Stuart Garrard
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The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever
And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth

*Never failing Ruler of my heart
Everlasting Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is
The King of Love my Shepherd is*

Lost and foolish off I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee dear Lord beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me

Refrain

*Oh Hallelujah Hallelujah
Oh Hallelujah Hallelujah*

Refrain

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever
Within Your house forever

***We Light the Advent Candle of Love**

Isaiah 40:26-31, Isaiah 41:8-10

*Please stand if you are able.

***Song:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Red Hymnal 59

***We Greet One Another**

Children's Blessing

Carol: *Welcome, Welcome Jesus*

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Welcome, welcome Jesus, we're so glad you're here.
Welcome, welcome Jesus, our hearts are filled with cheer.
Friends and family greet you from both far and near.
Welcome, welcome Jesus, we're so glad you're here.

(Sing 2x)

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

We Offer Our Prayers and All We Have to God

Prayers of the People

We Present our Gifts & Offerings for: The Lord's work through AACRC

Offertory: *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

Red Hymnal 457

We Are Fed by God's Word and Table

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Message: "Welcoming Love"

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.

Communion Songs:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Instrumental)

Satisfied (words printed on the back)

Satisfied

words: Clara T. Williams; music: Karl Digerness

All my life long I had panted for a drink from some cool spring,
that I hoped would quench the burning of the thirst I felt within.

*Hallelujah! He has found me,
the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings;*

Feeding on the filth around me 'til my strength was almost gone.
Longed my soul for something better, only still to hunger on.

Chorus

Poor I was and sought for riches, something that would satisfy.
But the dust I gathered 'round me only mocked my soul's sad cry.

Chorus

Well of water ever springing, Bread of Life so rich and free.
Untold wealth that never faileth, my Redeemer is to me.

Chorus

through his blood I now am saved. (2x)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We Go Out in God's Peace

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

***Doxology:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Red Hymnal 76:1-3

***Postlude:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Sigvart Hofland

Pastors: John Groen, Ryan Boes

Reader: Jennifer Bryson

Worship Team: Ryan Boes, Mike Wilson,
Veena Kulkarni, Dane Peterson, Joe Yunkman,
Jan Musch, Dawn Zinsser, Nolan Rector-Brooks

AACRC Staff

John Groen, Pastor • 734-239-2348 • jgroen@aacrc.org

Ryan Boes, Pastor of Teaching & Leadership • 734-545-4324 • rboes@aacrc.org

Mary Admiraal, Children's Ministry Coordinator • 248-278-6101 • marykutschke@yahoo.com

Paul Herrema, Choir Director • pherrema@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Okonkwo, Parish Nurse, 734-476-4440 • bjokonkwo69@gmail.com

Rachel Redder, Director of Communication and Community Engagement

734-665-0105 • office@aacrc.org

Ross Weener, Church Executive • rweener@aacrc.org

Sunday Morning • 9:30 am

- Preacher: Pastor John Groen
- Scripture: Isaiah 40
- No youth or adult programming

Sunday Morning • 9:30 am

- Preacher: Pastor Ryan Boes
- Scripture: Luke 2:22-40
- No youth or adult programming

Christmas Eve Vespers Service

December 24

11:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

December 25

9:30 AM



New to Ann Arbor or AACRC?

- If you would like to be added to our weekly email, Connections, or have a mailbox assigned, please contact Rachel in the church office: office@aacrc.org.
- Have you heard about our House Groups? We would love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and studying God's Word in a small group format. Groups meet at various times. Contact Ross Weener for more information: rweener@aacrc.org.



We are a purposeful community transformed by the love of God and engaging the world with the grace and truth of Jesus through the practice of Christian hospitality.

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.

announcements & reminders

Christmas Day - Special Offering

On Christmas Day the offering will be for the Community Assistance Program (CAP) general budget. CAP serves people in inner city Detroit that find themselves in difficult circumstances. Please give generously to this ministry.

Pastoral Team

Pastor John will be on vacation from January 12 - 21. He will be back in the office on January 22.

Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 as well as December 31 - January 3. If you have any announcements that you would like placed in the bulletin for December 30 or January 6, please e-mail Rachel in the office by this Thursday morning, December 27.

Church Directory

The online church directory (Instant Church Directory) has been updated. If you would like information on how to access this app, or if you would like a printed copy, please contact Rachel in the office (office@aacrc.org or 734-665-0105).

Church-Wide Email: "Connections"

Over the past few months we have transitioned into sending out a weekly church-wide e-mail titled, "Connections". This e-mail is the most complete place to find information about what is happening here at AACRC and with our partner ministries. It is intended to reach everyone attending our services and ministry activities. It is typically sent out Tuesday morning. If you are having problems receiving this email, or if you are not receiving it and would like to, please contact Rachel in the office (office@aacrc.org or 734-665-0105).

From Your Pastors

Every Sunday morning, as we begin worship, we are keenly aware that we are speaking to, praying with, and praising God with people whom God loves dearly. God sent his Son to us so that through Jesus, we might be reconciled to God. We realize that we are part of a congregation of women and men, boys and girls, who experience life as we do, and often times experience the storms of life in ways we don't or have not. All of us, preachers included, need God's grace. This past year we have both found it a sacred privilege to be your pastors and to share life with you. As we celebrate and praise our God for the gift of Jesus Christ we do so with you, along with thanks to you for the privilege of being your pastors. May God shine his face upon you with rich grace and powerful blessings during this season and throughout the year ahead.

Pastor John
Pastor Ryan

A Note of Thanks

Thank you for your prayers, kind words & cards in the sudden death of Harvey. I truly felt lifted up by God's Spirit during this time. He has a new home with Jesus and didn't have to suffer long for which we are thankful. Please continue to pray as I adjust to being alone after 60 good years.

Jo Vredevelde

AACRC Weekly Calendar

Today, December 23

9:30 AM Morning Worship

Monday, December 24

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

11:00 PM Christmas Eve Vespers Service

Tuesday, December 25

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 26

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 27

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

10:00 AM Crafters

10:00 AM Morning Prayer Group

6:45 PM New Life

Friday, December 28

6:30 AM AA New Awakening

6:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Saturday, December 29

No Events Scheduled

Sunday, December 30

9:30 AM Morning Worship

Assisting This Week 12/23

Coffee Servers

9:30 Doug & Darlene De Vries
Michael Drumm & Marie Blanarova

Nursery

9:30 Kellie Steen
Titia VanderMolen, Kira Brehob
SS No Sunday School

Preschool Church Hour

9:30 De Anna Stephenson, Barb Buiten,
Anika Lautenbach, Jacob Bennink

Communion Servers

9:30 Jim & Jennifer Bryson
John & Rachel Bush

Assisting Next Week 12/30

Coffee Servers

9:30 Charlie & Rita Aagenas
Arnold & Marilyn Essenburg

Nursery

9:30 De Anna Stephenson
Tom & Claudia Larson
SS No Sunday School

Preschool Church Hour

9:30 Debbie Bigelow, Anita Lautenbach,
Kira Brehob, Dane Hubers

Communion Servers

9:30 Bill & Marilyn Dahms
Wayne & Norma Lloyd



Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church

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

Ministry Focus

Friends In Deed – Ypsilanti Michigan



“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – Matt 25:40

Helping people in need; building community to end poverty. Over the past 35 years our church has joined people from across Washtenaw County to support Friends In Deed (FID).

We have been blessed with wonderful support when life takes an unexpected turn – a parent, a close friend, a neighbor, or the church. For others, the options are limited. Positive role models are few. Even basic necessities are out of reach – a crib, a bed, or a desk and chair for doing homework.

Each year FID supports the most vulnerable, taking thousands of calls for help, matching needs with agencies, often filling gaps in service, and disbursing funds to prevent longer-term impacts (think: job-related needs, medical, dental, electricity, heating, car repair).

Immediate action matters, since the longer a family is impacted, the more likely they will remain in poverty. And when we help others, we feel blessed in return.

For those with busy schedules, think about serving a meal on a Tuesday night. That’s when Allies and Leaders meet in Circles to review their action plans. Childcare is also needed, so participants can focus on this essential poverty-ending work. Check the calendar on www.friendsindeedmi.org/circles-signup



If you’re tired of sitting still, you can help in the warehouse, or pick up and deliver furniture. Build muscle doing good work on a schedule that varies.

Like working with your hands? You might want to help with the ongoing Bed and Crib Drive. Due to recent federal regulations, nonprofits can no longer distribute used cribs. This means that FID has to purchase new cribs and they need our help assembling them – as well as things like bunk beds. You get to meet families and help them get a good night’s sleep.

Those with a gift for gab can offer their talents answering phones for half a day on a weekly basis. This is not physically challenging but great listening skills and a calm, guiding voice are needed.

Please look at your calendar and take the next step. If you prefer to work as a group, we can organize a visit based on your interests. Contact Chris Adams for more information. Thanks!