



**CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING IN LOVE

*The prelude is a call for personal preparation for the worship of God.*

#### Prelude

"What Child Is This" | Richard Purvis  
"Carol of the Bells" | Mykola Leontovych  
"Greensleeves Fantasy" | arr. Paul Nagle  
"Il est né, le divin Enfant (He is Born, the Divine Christ Child)" | arr. Taemin Han  
"In the Bleak Midwinter" | by Gustav Holst, arr. Alan Fernie  
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" | Raymond H. Haan  
"The Coventry Carol & Lo How a Rose" | David Baldwin  
"O Holy Night" | Adolphe Adam, arr. Stephen DeCesare

#### \*Processional Carol

"Once in Royal David's City" | see end of order

#### \*The Bidding 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### \*Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" | see end of order

### LISTENING IN EXPECTATION

#### First Lesson

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Genesis 3:8-15 (page 2)

#### Anthem

"Christ the Appletree" | Stanford Scriven

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;  
the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the appletree.*

*This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know but ne'er can tell  
the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the appletree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the appletree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the appletree.*

*I'm weary'd with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while,  
under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the appletree.*

#### Sources and Credits:

Cover art: Nativity-Detail 14 © John August Swanson | Eyekons

All song permissions via CCLI license #2931504 and One License #729524A.



## Second Lesson

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.*  
Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 554)

## \*Carol

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" | see end of order

## Third Lesson

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*  
Micah 5:2-4 (page 756)

## Anthem

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem" | arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far.  
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child, is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?*

*May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake?  
Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?*

*God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre,  
sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.*

## Fourth Lesson

*The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.*  
Luke 1:26-38 (page 831)

## Anthem

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" | Basque carol

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;*

*"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,"*

*Refrain: Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*"For know a blessed mother you shall be, all generations praise continually,  
your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold." - refrain*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." - refrain.*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: -refrain*

## Fifth Lesson

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*  
Luke 2:1-7 (page 832)

## Anthem

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" | Jonathan Kohrs

*Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the child divine;  
God reward thee and all that's thine in paradise,"  
so prays the mother Mary.*

*Gladly, dear one, lady mine, I will cradle this child of thine;  
heavenly light on us both shall shine in paradise,  
as prays the mother Mary.*

*Sweet and lovely little one, princely, beauteous God's own Son,  
without thee were we all undone:  
our love is won by thine. O Son of Mary.*

*All shall come and bow the knee; wise and happy their souls shall be,  
loving such a divinity, as all may see in Jesus, Son of Mary.*

**Sixth Lesson**

*The shepherds go to the manger.*  
Luke 2:8-16 (page 833)

**\*Carol**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" | see end of order

**Seventh Lesson**

*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*  
John 1:1-14 (page 862)

**Carol**

"Still, Still, Still" | see end of order

**The Christmas Meditation**

**Anthem**

"On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)" | arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon  
*On Christmas night, all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, tidings of our Savior's birth.  
The King of kings to us is given, the Lord of earth and King of heaven.  
Angels and all will joyously sing of blest Jesus, their new-born King.  
Oh why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
When from our sins he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;  
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."*

**RESPONDING IN FAITH**

**Reflection**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among people,  
to make music in the heart.  
—Howard Thurman

**Silent Meditation**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). The light of our Lord shines through us wherever we go. By lighting candles, we are reminded of the many gifts he gives us, especially the "light of life." We invite you to pass the light from the Christ Candle to the person at the end of each pew, then down the pew. Dip only the unlit candle when lighting from your neighbor's candle. Please hold burning candles upright. Children may participate with their parents' permission.

**Carol** "Silent Night" | Franz Xaver Gruber

Choir: *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht. Alles schläft; einsam wacht;  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*(the congregation will stand at the interlude)*

**\*All:** **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin, mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**\*The Christmas Blessing**

One: May the song of the angels, the joy of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child be with you tonight and always. Merry Christmas!

Many: **Merry Christmas!**

**\*Carol** "Joy to the World" | see end of order

**Postlude** "Festival Postlude on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'" | Neil Harmon

*Tonight's Christmas Eve offering will benefit Addie's Pantry. Offering plates have been placed by the sanctuary entrances. Thank you for helping us fight hunger in Grand Rapids.*

# "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

(v. 1: soloist, organ interlude, v. 2-4: all in parts, v. 5: unison)

C7 F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all;  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he grew;

C7 F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:  
 he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew:

B $\flat$  F C7 F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C F

Ma - ry was that moth - er mild, — Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child. —  
 with the poor, and meek, and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
 through his own redeeming love,  
 for that child, so dear and gentle,  
 is our Lord in heaven above:  
 and he leads his children on  
 to the place where he has gone.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable  
 with the oxen standing by  
 we shall see him, but in heaven,  
 set at God's right hand on high;  
 there his children gather round,  
 bright like stars, with glory crowned.

## "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one ac - cord,
3. Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther and the Spir - it, there shall be



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga— he the source, the end - ing he,  
whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised in their faith - ful word;  
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and the shout of ju - bi - lee:



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu-ture years shall see  
now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er more and ev - er more.

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413); tr. Composite, P.D.  
Music (DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8.7.8.7.8.7.7) Plainsong mode V, 13th c.

# "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

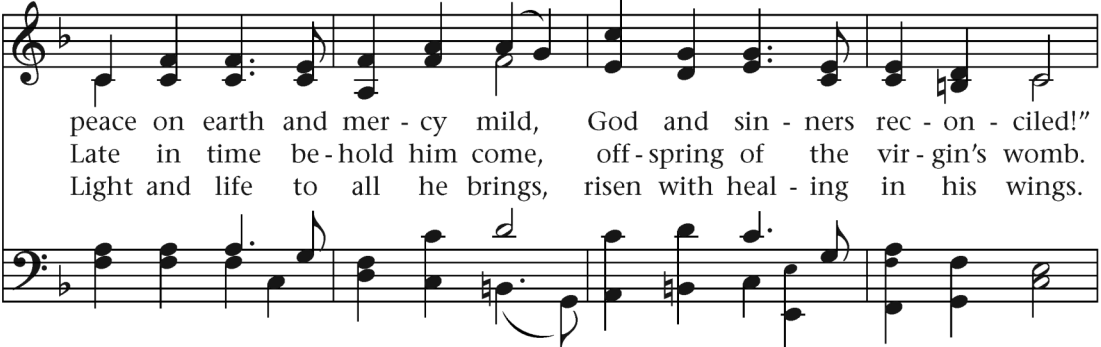
(v. 1-2: parts, v. 3: unison)

F C Am B $\flat$  F/C C F



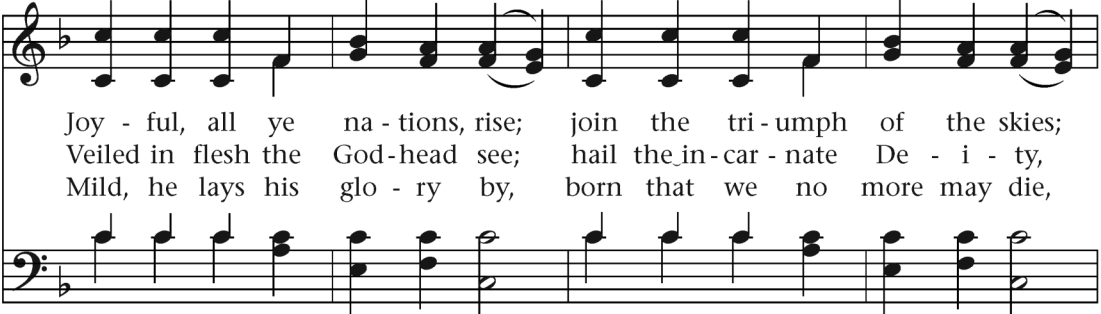
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3 Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Dm7 G7 C Fmaj7 G7 C



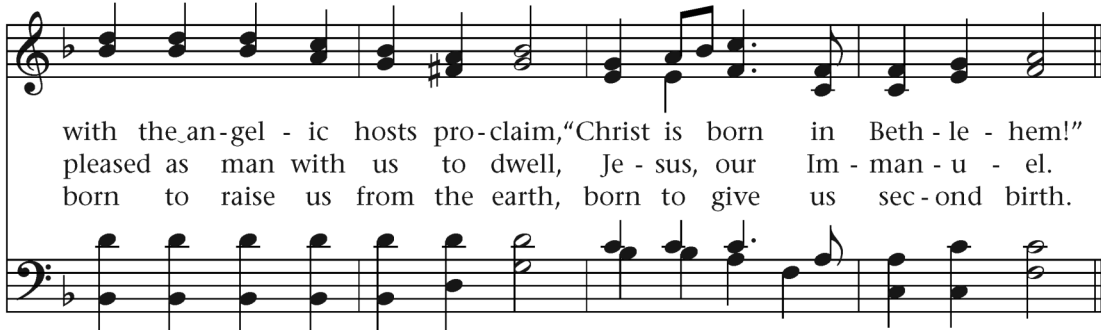
peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

F F/C C F F/C C



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B $\flat$  D Gm C7 F C F



with the an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain B $\flat$  D Gm C7 F C7 F

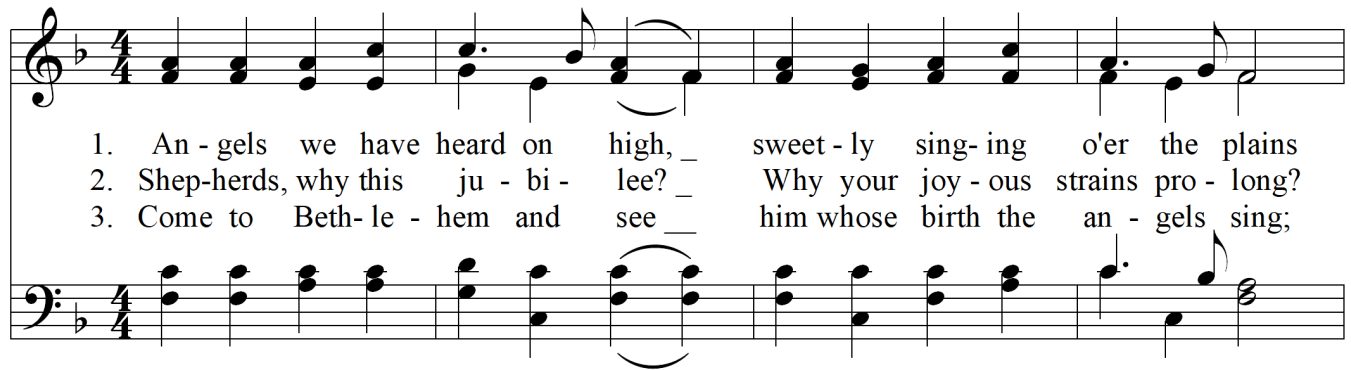


Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

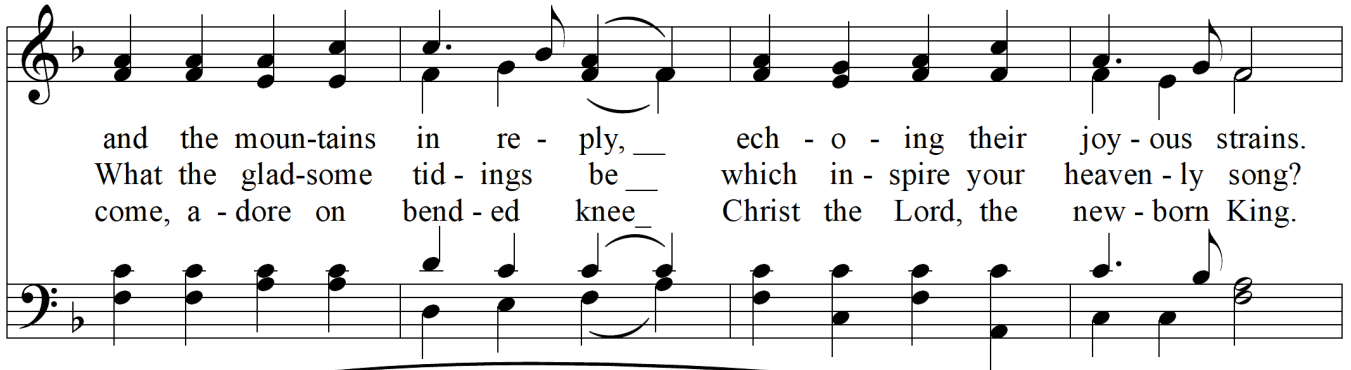
Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music (MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7. D refrain 7.7): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856, P.D.

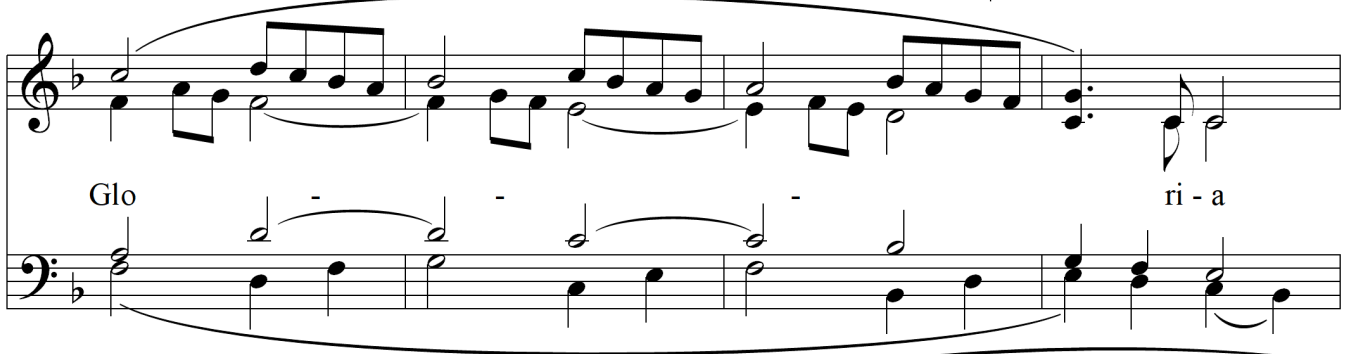
## "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains  
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



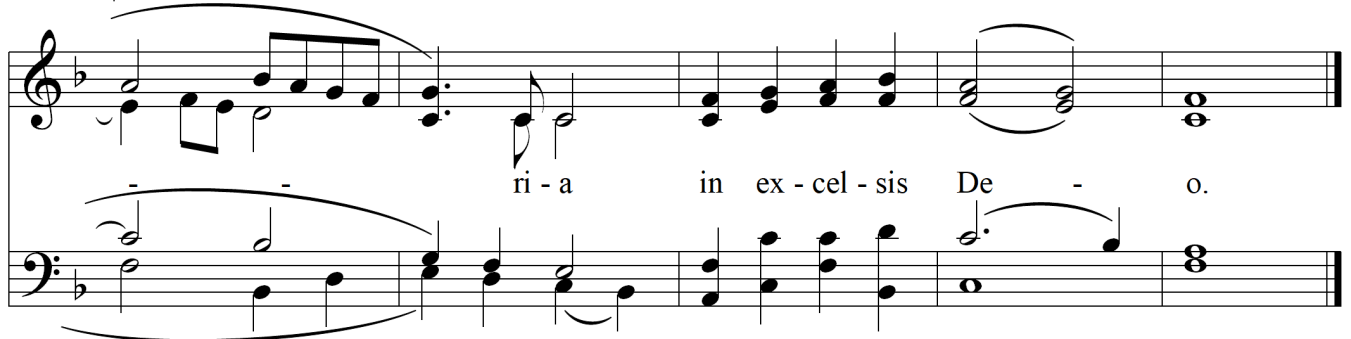
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French 18th c.; tr. *Crown of Jesus Music*, 1862, alt. P.D.

Music: (GLORIA 7.7.7.7 refrain 3.6.3.6); French, 18th c.; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937, P.D.

## "STILL, STILL, STILL"



|           |        |        |                                           |
|-----------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Still, | still, | still, | he sleeps this night so chill! The        |
| 2. Sleep, | sleep, | sleep, | he lies in slum - ber deep while          |
| 3. Peace, | peace, | peace, | he was born to bring God's peace. His     |
| 4. Joy,   | joy,   | joy,   | come and share the Child's sweet joy. Our |



Vir - gin's ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the Child are hold - ing.  
 an - gel hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.  
 gen - tle hope calms all our fears, he is with us, ev - er near.  
 hearts re - newed, his love re - leased, God has sent God's gift of peace.



|        |        |        |                                       |
|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Still, | still, | still, | he sleeps this night so chill.        |
| Sleep, | sleep, | sleep, | he lies in slum - ber deep.           |
| Peace, | peace, | peace, | he was born to bring us peace.        |
| Joy,   | joy,   | joy,   | come and share the Child's sweet joy. |

Text (v. 1-2) and Music: Copyright © 1963, 1980 by Walter Ehret and George K. Evans,  
 from *The International Book of Christmas Carols*.

Text (v. 3-4): Steven D. Pierce, Norma de Waal Malefyt

Reprinted by permission of Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin Books USA Inc.

# "JOY TO THE WORLD "

(v. 1-2: parts, v. 3: unison, v. 4: parts)

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

For another setting of Ps. 98 see 547

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.

Music (ANTIOCH 8.6.8.6.6.8): Lowell Mason, 1848, P.D.



## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

### GIVEN BY

Brian & Jennifer Andrew  
Chris & Heidi Bailey  
Dan Ballast  
Nancy & Ron Hager  
Kanu & Ezinwanne Jigo  
Duncan & Jodi MacLean  
Bill & Pat Mills  
Bea Nagel  
Fred & Millie Overeem  
Helen E. Phillips  
Steve & Monica Pierce  
Tom & Lisa Smith  
Jim & terry Spote  
Kathy & Stu Stewart  
Tim & Dawn Tillema  
Paul & Patsy Troost  
Ethan & Angela Wheeler

### GIVEN BY

Brian & Jennifer Andrew  
The Bailey Family  
David & Ruth Brouwer  
Willa Brown  
Paul Bukaweski & Steve Timmer  
Carol Bylsma  
Dave & Karen Custer  
The Gearhart Family  
Mary Gerbens  
Ingrid Gerger  
Martha Norden-Harvey

### IN HONOR OF

Emma & Owen Andrew  
Our children & parents  
My wife Linda  
Jeff, Ava, Romen, Jared, Brynne, Addie, Delilah & Colvin  
Our 30<sup>th</sup> year of marriage-we thank God for his blessings  
Adeline Joy MacLean  
Our grandchildren  
Our music leaders & program  
Our children, grandchildren & great grandchildren  
Richard & Carol Phillips  
Our children- Campbell, Leighton & Graham  
Nathan & Allison Smith  
Our grandkids; Campbell & Cade  
Our friend, Roseann  
The staff & congregation of Central Reformed  
Anne & Paul Collin Troost  
Sydney Troost & Josh Everingham  
Our loved ones

### IN MEMORY OF

Peter & Karen Payette  
Larry Gerbens  
Our parents  
George Brown, Jr. & Suzanne Karsen  
John & Kathy Timmer; Ellen Bukaweski; John W. Timmer  
Peter G. Bylsma  
Ellen Custer  
Our grandparents: Don & Bev Sarver,  
John & Maxine DeVries, Jim & Marge Hager,  
William & Mildred Gearhart  
Larry Gerbens  
Ed Gerger  
Rev. Russell L. Norden





## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

### GIVEN BY

The Hoezee Family  
Virginia Hoezee  
The Keizer Family  
Duncan & Jodi MacLean  
The McWilliams Family  
Bill & Pat Mills  
Gary & Faye Myers  
  
Ken & Bonnie Noorman  
  
John & Nancy Norden  
  
Helen E. Phillips  
Tom & Elise Roe  
  
Arlan & Marcia Schaap  
  
The Shults Family  
Tom & Lisa Smith  
  
Kathy Stewart  
The Troost Family  
Burt & Kathy VanderLaan  
Ethan & Angela Wheeler  
  
The Witmer Family  
David Wright

### IN MEMORY OF

Our parents & grandparents  
My husband, Edward  
Tom Keizer  
Amy Wyatt MacLean  
Jim Sr. & Helen Riekse; Jim Riekse Jr.  
  
Our parents  
Harvey & Ella DeGood, Maynard & Evelyn Myers,  
Patricia Mae Dickenson, Sue Ann Vanslooten  
& Harvey Jay DeGood  
  
Our parents William & Helen Jamison;  
Barney & Esther Noorman  
  
Jim & Helena Riekse  
Jim Riekse Jr.  
Marsh & Patricia Norden  
  
Elizabeth & Dick Phillips; Barb & Bill Pekich  
  
Parents & siblings: Dick Lillmars, Frank Roe  
& Lorie Roe  
  
Arnola Roos, sister of Arlan Schaap & aunt of  
Monica Pierce  
  
Our grandparents  
Mary Anne Smith, Roger Winkels,  
Carole Van'tHof, Bob Dykstra  
  
My father, Guy Wright  
Jean & Paul R. Troost, Elke Walswoorth  
  
Our parents  
Steve & Anna Berklan; Albert & Grace Singleton;  
Charles & Margaret Wheeler; Anna Berklan;  
Van Moore Douglas; Gary Pondel; Tim Pondel  
  
Martin & Nancy Bolt  
Dan Dixon, J.D. Wright, Syble Wright

*A most sincere thank-you for the generosity of those who contributed to the splendor of our Sanctuary with the purchase of Christmas flowers. **Please take your plant(s) home following tonight's service.***



### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt

Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han

Brass Quintet: Alex Wilson, Paul Hardaker, Judson Whitney,  
Adam Graham, Brendan Bohnhorst

Cellist: Martin Werner

Violinist: Sara Witmer

Flutist: Jodi MacLean

Celebration Ringers

Crucifer: Lauren Hoezee

Chancel Choir

Readers: Jon Lunderberg, Comfort Jigo, David Wright, Monica Pierce,  
Will Shults, Patricia Duthler, Brooke TerMaat

Clergy: Steven D. Pierce and Matt Shults

Video Tech: Michael Beachy

Sound Tech: Chris Witmer

CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH  
PRESENTS

# NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

FEATURING CONCERT ORGANIST  
**MR. TODD WILSON**



The program includes:  
"Variations on a Noel" by Marcel Dupre  
"In Dulci Jubilo" by Bach and Dupre  
5th Symphony by Widor  
Toccata-Gigue on "Sussex Carol" by Baker

**December 31, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.**

**Free Admission | Ample Parking Space**

10 College Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
616.456.1773  
[centralreformedchurch.org](http://centralreformedchurch.org)

This concert is cosponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



**Central Reformed Church**  
10 College Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
616.456.1773  
[centralreformedchurch.org](http://centralreformedchurch.org)

Connecting all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service.