

**Sunday, November 29 2009**

**First Sunday of Advent**

*Welcome to our celebration of corporate worship. We are glad you are here and invite you to join us for refreshments following the service. In the order of the service, an asterisk (\*) indicates that the congregation is standing. Also, please take a moment to let us know of your presence by signing the blue fellowship register located in each row.*

*Today we celebrate communion. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has ordained and instituted the sacrament of communion to nourish and to sustain those who are part of his family, the church. Baptized believers in Christ may receive the sacrament in the gathering of God's people. All those who have not put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior are asked to abstain from the sacrament.*

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Advent Call:** Open Our Eyes solo

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Reader1: Long ago, you came to earth as a baby.

Reader2: During Advent, we prepare again to remember your birth.

Reader1: Some day, you will come again to earth, bringing your kingdom to completion.

Reader2: During Advent, we hopefully anticipate that glorious day.

Reader1: In this time when we look back on your first coming and look forward to your second coming, we realize that there is another coming, your coming into our souls. *(as the candle is lit)*

Reader2: Dwell in us that our light, the light of Christ, may be a light that furthers your kingdom on here on earth by seeking justice, rescuing the oppressed, defending the orphans, and pleading for the widow.

**People: Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord**

\* **Gathering Song:** All Earth Is Waiting (green) Sing! #93 vs 1-3  
*(children: percussion instruments)*

**\* Responsive Reading**

Pastor: In anticipation we gather.

**People: With expectation we wait.**

Pastor: We gather to watch for the coming of Immanuel into God's world and into our lives.

**People: We wait to see the fullness of God's promises.**

Pastor: May God open the doorways to our hearts, so that this year hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

**People: Let our praises rise up to the heavens.**

**Let our worship announce Christ's coming for a bound and struggling world.**

\* **Song of Adoration:** O Come, O Come, Immanuel (grey) PH #328  
verses 1,2,4,6-7

**\* GOD GREETS US AS WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**

Pastor: People of God, in whom is our help?

**People: Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
who made the heavens and the earth.**

*(We receive God's greeting and greet one another.)*

**GOD RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF**

**Confession**

Leader: 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.

**People: 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.**

**We are your people; open our eyes once again.**

**Song of Confession:** Open Our Eyes (green) Sing! #263  
*(All: refrain; solo: verses 1 and 2)*

*(Time of silence for personal confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** *(based on the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 60)*

Leader: How are you right with God?

**People: Without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace,  
God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction,  
righteousness, and holiness of Christ,**

**as if I had never sinned or been a sinner,  
as if I had been as perfectly obedient  
as Christ was obedient for me.**

Leader: All we need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart. Friends, believe the good news!

**All: *In Christ, we are forgiven.***

**Song of Assurance:** Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes (grey) PH #335  
*(pouring of the water of baptism)*

## **CHILDREN'S SENDING**

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

**People: The Lord be with you.**

**Children: And also with you.**

## **WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS**

Leader: Eternal God, for whom all people wait and search, even when they don't realize it, we cry out today for a live and present Word from you.

As our season of discontent approaches the day of your coming, we pray that you would speak to us in the graceful ways that you know best.

Open our eyes that have been closed by fear and blinded by self-pity, that we may see you even in the anxieties and uncertainties that beset our days and threaten to overwhelm us like a cloud of darkness.

Help us to see that amid the hustle and bustle of this holiday time—the crowded stores and rude shoppers, the impatient drivers, the frayed generosity—that you have become incarnate, sanctifying the smallest tasks of love, generosity and kindness that we are enabled by your grace to perform.

We thank and praise you for your goodness and graciousness, Thinking also of the needs of others at this time, O Lord.

*(Particular thanksgivings or petitions may be offered, spoken or unspoken.)*

Leader: We pray for the world into which you came and which you still love. Touch us anew with the hope that is the heritage of those who love you and trust your promises.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**

**Song of Illumination:** Prepare the Way (green) Sing! #105

**Old Testament Reading:** Genesis 19:1-29 (*Bible page 13*)

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **\* Gospel Reading**

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew, the first chapter

**People: Glory to You, O Lord**

Reader: Matthew 1:20-24 (*Bible page 783*)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon

*Silent Moment for Reflection*

## **WE RESPOND IN THANKSGIVING**

*(Our morning offering is an act of worship whereby we as members of this church express our gratitude to and reliance on God. Guests and visitors should not feel that participation in this part of the service is obligatory.)*

General Fund offering

*(Please take a moment during the offering to enter your name and contact information in the welcome pad found at the end of each row and pass the pad to your neighbor.)*

Offertory Prayer

Jesse Tree Children's Moment

**\* Song of Preparation:** Clothe Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness  
(grey) PH #305 vs 1-2

**THE COMMUNION** (using the purple communion liturgy)

## **GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Sending Song:** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (grey) PH #320 v 1

**\* Benediction**

**\* Sending Song:** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (grey) PH #320 v 2

## **Announcements**

**Note:** Various components of this service are reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, or Sing! A New Creation, ©2001 CRC Publications



# LOOP CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Connecting people to God, God's people, and God's work in the world.

*On the Move, in Step with the Spirit!*

Worshipping @ Daystar School, 1550 S. State  
 Office: 407 S. Dearborn, Ste. 240, Chicago, IL 60605  
 (312) 427-7962 [www.loopchurch.org](http://www.loopchurch.org)

*First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2009*

## ADVENT

Advent means "coming." The Advent season celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of his return.

Advent symbolizes the spiritual journey of God's people as we affirm that Christ has come, that he is present in the world today, and that he will come again in power.

The sanctuary color for Advent is purple, the color of royalty. It is also the color of suffering used during Lent, pointing us to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world and dwelling among us is to reveal God's grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, as well as his suffering, death, and resurrection.

## This Week at Loop

**PREACHING:** Timothy Douma **WORSHIP LEADER:** Abram VanEngen **Music:** Joanna Wigboldy

**Welcome to our worship service at Loop Christian Ministries.** After the service, you're invited to share refreshments and fellowship with us in the gym. **PLEASE REMEMBER – NO FOOD OR DRINK TO BE TAKEN INTO CARPETED AREAS!** A nursery is available for younger children during the service. Nursery is for children under the age of 5.

**Church Volunteer Opportunities:** Please be sure to check with Jim Bosman after the service regarding the worship assistant sign-up sheet. There are many opportunities to get involved on Sunday morning including greeting people, bringing refreshments, and watching children in nursery.

### Worship Assistants:

Date	Set up	Greeters	Nursery	Nursery	Refreshments	SS 4-7	SS 8-12	Offering
11/29/09	Ginny	Tim & Lexi	Erica	Mike M	Jake & Megan	Patrick	Sharon	Rebecca & Paul
12/6/09	Ginny	Michael & Yvana	John	Yvana	Rob & Carrie	Singing	practice	Rebecca & Kristin
12/13/09	Steve	John & Lisa	Betsy	Jessica VS	Nancy & Paul	Singing	practice	Kristin & Corwin
12/20/09	Steve	Kyle & Joanna	Tim W	Jess T	Tim & Lexi	Singing	practice	Rebecca & Paul

### Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Friday, December 4	Ladies Night Out	6:30 – 9:00 PM	Home of Carolyn & Tim
Sunday, December 13	SJOM Brown Bagging	11:15-11:45 AM	Daystar
Tuesday, December 14	Worship Team Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Chicago Semester
Tuesday, December 15	SJOM Supper	6:15 – 8:00 PM	SJOM

**Offering Update:** Gen Fund: November 22: \$1,552.00, FYTD: \$44,583.08; FYTD Budget: \$56,738.61; Excess (shortfall): (\$12,155.53)

**Email Prayer Requests:** If you would like to be included in this ministry and receive periodic prayer requests from members of LCM, please email [LCM@loopchurch.org](mailto:LCM@loopchurch.org). If you would like to submit a prayer request go to our website at [www.loopchurch.org](http://www.loopchurch.org) and click on the Prayer Requests link and follow the instructions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Contact [jim@loopchurch.org](mailto:jim@loopchurch.org) if you would like to add or update an event on the web calendar. Events from the calendar are also included in the bulletin but REMEMBER - the bulletin is printed on Tuesday so get your event in the bulletin you must have your updates in by then.

**The Trinity Christian College Jazz Band presents Jazzin' Around the Christmas Tree.** Come enjoy an evening of Christmas favorites and Jazz improvisation featuring Jazz student soloists. This event is free and open to the public. Jazzin' Around the Christmas Tree will take place at the foot of the poinsettia tree in the Ozinga Chapel Grand Lobby on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Lecture on Sex and Marriage at Trinity--New Location:** Dr. Mark Regnerus '93, author and leading researcher on religion and teenage sexuality, will present "What Trinity Taught Me about Sex and Marriage," at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, December 2, in the Van Namen Recital Hall of the Ozinga Chapel. The lecture is free and open to the public. Teen youth groups and parents are encouraged to attend. Regnerus is the author of *Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers*; he is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin; and he is a Faculty Research Associate with the Population Research Center. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Sociology, Cultural Affairs Committee, Trinity Honors Program, and Office of the Provost. Trinity Christian College is located at 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights. For more information, contact Dr. Brad Breems at [brad.breems@trnty.edu](mailto:brad.breems@trnty.edu) or 708.239.4752.

**Christmastide at Trinity Christian College:** Christmastide is an opportunity for the Trinity community and its friends and neighbors to gather together and remember the real reason for the holiday season. This year's program will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 4 p.m. Christmastide provides a worshipful tone and includes congregational singing, Scripture reading, performances by Trinity Christian College student ensembles and groups, and a variety of Christmas songs. Tickets are \$11 for general admission and \$6 for students. Purchase tickets online at <http://christmastide.eventbrite.com>. For more information, call the College at 708.597.3000.

**Winter Chamber Music Recital at Trinity:** The Trinity Christian College Music Department invites you to a Winter Chamber Music Recital, taking place Tuesday, December 8, in the Van Namen Recital Hall (located in the Ozinga Chapel building) at 7:30 p.m. This event will feature the College's small ensembles, including the flute ensemble, string ensemble, and woodwind ensemble. This event is free and open to the public.

**BACK TO GOD HOUR - A New Shoot from an Old Tree:** Each of us has a story. But, often we find that story to be rather negative. Can new life come out of the sin and negativity of our past? Find out on the Dec. 6 Back to God Hour. Go to [www.BacktoGod.net](http://www.BacktoGod.net) for local stations and times.

**KIDS CORNER - The Knights Before Christmas:** Two mysterious strangers appear in Terrene the week before Christmas. Should they receive help, or not? Check it out on this week's Kids Corner. Kids Corner is a member of the HisKids.net alliance--working together to provide quality entertainment for kids that is Christ-centered and Bible-based. Visit HisKids.net to find great Christian programs and music for kids.

**CALVIN COLLEGE - Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (Mar. 31-Apr. 13,):** Walk in the footsteps of Paul during the day and study his letters at night! Travel by motor coach and cruise ship to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys. Each evening features a study session on "Paul: His Life & His Letters." Join host Jeff Weima, professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary for this truly inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-957-6019 or [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu).

**OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE - Support Families - Send a Postcard:** While you're celebrating with your family this holiday season, remember the many families separated by our unjust immigration system. Send your representatives a note reminding them to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that will help keep families together. Contact Kate, [kkooyman@crcna.org](mailto:kkooyman@crcna.org), to request your own supply of postcards for your congregation or Sunday school class. Remember, each individual participating will need three cards: one for each of their senators and their representative.

**POSITION OPENING - Disaster Response Team Leader:** The Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has a full-time position opening for Disaster Response Team Leader with CRWRC, based in Burlington, Ontario. This position is responsible for developing and executing strategies to position CRWRC as a professional Christian disaster response and rehabilitation organization within the context of the bi-national and international disaster response architecture, as an agency of choice. For a job description or to apply visit [www.crcna.org](http://www.crcna.org). Applications will be accepted through Dec. 31.

**CHICAGO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER** is offering a support group, **WAITING in Still Waters**, for couples sharing the struggle of infertility. The group is facilitated by Rev. Marj Kooy, MDiv, BCC, and will meet in our Orland Park office the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 7:00 - 8:30pm. Cost \$25/session per couple. For registration/more info call (708) 845-5500 or go online at [www.chicagochristiancounseling.org](http://www.chicagochristiancounseling.org).

**CHICAGO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CENTER** is co-facilitating an intensive weekend workshop for men called **Recovery JUMPstart**, designed to jumpstart the process of healing from sexually compulsive behavior. The workshop will be held in their Oak Park location December 4 - 6, 2009 and is co-facilitated by Bob Weaver, MDiv, MSW, LCSW, a Certified Sexual Addictions Therapist. Cost is \$600 which includes 4 meals, all study materials and books. For registration/more info call (708) 845-5500 or go online at [www.chicagochristiancounseling.org](http://www.chicagochristiancounseling.org).

**CBI BROADCAST NEWS:** Dr. David Schuringa and Tristan Sweat report on the execution of an innocent man, the recent drop in crime rates, a guard who was fired for being "too pretty," a puppies for prisoners program and more. Go to [www.cbi.fm](http://www.cbi.fm) to listen to *Crossroad Connection* —a restorative justice ministry of Crossroad Bible Institute.

Below you will find the **Mission Statement** of LCM. This is what we intend to be about and that for which we wish to be held accountable. Is it working for you? Let us know. Is it not working for you? By all means, speak to a member of our steering team and we will make adjustments. We firmly believe that this is what God has called and positioned us to do.

As People who belong to God we welcome you, accept you for who you are, and believe you are valuable to our community. To equip you for a life of security in God alone, we will pray with you, walk with you, study God's word with you, be accountable with you, and worship with you. You will be challenged to speak about the hope you have in Christ to an inquiring world. We will provide you with opportunities to show and tell of God's reconciling love.

**Pastor:** Timothy H. Douma **Steering Council:** Kristin VanEngen (Chair), Rebecca Reed, Corwin Will  
**Treasurer:** Tim Wurpts

**Prayer Coordinator:** Lexi Wurpts

**Ministry Coordinator:** Jim Bosman

**Missionaries:** John Hoekwater - Rogers Park; John Zayas - Hermosa; Rosetta Polk-Pugh - Campus

**OFFICE SCHEDULE:** Office hours are by appointment, generally Monday through Thursday

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES** (Please call the church office for further information)

- ◇ Opportunities to help with Rogers Park and Hermosa Church Planting Ministries
- ◇ Volunteer commitment surveys are available at the church office.

**REGULAR MEETINGS:** ◇ The Steering Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

◇ The Worship Committee meets the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

◇ Small groups meet during the week throughout the city.

◇ You are invited to speak with Tim, or a member of the steering council about starting a new group