

**Sunday, December 13, 2009**

**Third 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 (green) Sing! #263 (refrain only, 2x)  
(first time: solo; second time: all)

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

Reader1: All earth is waiting for the coming of the Lord.

Reader2: Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy mountain.

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near. (Joel 2:1)

Reader1: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

I will say, 'Peace be within you.'

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6a, 8b-9)

(as the candle is lit)

Reader2: In our waiting, we pray and work for peace in the city and in the world, knowing that on the final day there will be shalom.

**All: 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** *(from Isaiah 35:1-10)*

Pastor: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**People: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Pastor: Strengthen the weak hands;  
make firm the feeble knees.

**People: Say to the fearful, "Here is your God.  
He will come and save you."**

Pastor: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**People: then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

Pastor: For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

**People: the burning sand shall become a pool,  
the thirsty ground springs of water.**

Pastor: A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way.

**People: It shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.**

Pastor: No lion or ravenous beast shall come up on it,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

**People: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;**

**All: *Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.***

**\* Song of Adoration: Song of Zechariah/Blessed Be the God of Israel  
(green) Sing! #104**

**\* 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 4 and 5)

*(Time of silence for personal confession)*

### **Assurance of Pardon** (1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Pet. 2:24)

Leader: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance:  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.  
Friends, believe the good news!

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

**Song of Assurance:** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding (grey) PH #332  
(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,  
as you led your people in ages past,  
you direct our journey into the future.  
We give you thanks that  
you came to us in Jesus Christ,  
and we eagerly await his coming again  
that his rule may be complete  
and your righteousness reign all over the world.  
By your Spirit,  
open our eyes to the generosity of your hand,  
and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.  
Fill us with gratitude overflowing  
that we may share life and love in praise to you.  
Bring deliverance to all who are sick, imprisoned, grieving,  
unemployed, addicted, at war, homeless, hungry,  
or in other forms of bondage.  
Hear now our individual thanksgivings and petitions.  
*(Particular thanksgivings or petitions may be offered, spoken or unspoken.)*

Leader: God of hope and joy,  
the day draws near when the glory of your Son  
will brighten the night of the waiting world.  
Let no sorrow hinder the joy  
of those who seek him.  
Let no sin obscure the vision of wisdom  
seen by those who find him.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**

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

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-4 *(Bible page 550)*

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God**

**\* Gospel Reading**

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

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

Reader: Luke 1:76-79 (*Bible page 832*)

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: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (grey) PH #331**

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

**GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Sending Song: Song of Hope (green) Sing! #282**  
*(children: percussion instruments)*

**\* Benediction**

**\* Sending Song: Song of Hope (green) Sing! #282**  
*(children: percussion instruments)*

**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!*

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

*Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 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:** Music: Sonja Will

**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
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
12/27/09		Kristin & Abram	Yvana	Matt VZ	Mary & Jim	Singing	practice	Corwin & Paul
1/3/10		Kevin & Mona	Megan H	Tim W	Norma & Rosetta	Sharon	Kevin	Corwin & Kristin

### Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sunday, December 13	SJOM Brown Bagging	11:15-11:45 AM	Daystar
Monday, December 14	Worship Team Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Chicago Semester
Tuesday, December 15	Steering Council Meeting	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Church Office
Tuesday, December 15	SJOM Supper	6:15 – 8:00 PM	SJOM
Saturday, December 19	Loop Christmas Party	6:00 – 9:00 PM	Home of Kevin & Mona

**Offering Update:** Gen Fund: December 6: \$2,302.00, FYTD: \$48,370.08; FYTD Budget: \$62,142.28; Excess (shortfall): (\$13,772.20)

**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.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY!** Please join us for the Loop Church Christmas Party, Saturday, December 19 at 6:00 PM. Mona and Kevin are hosting in their home at 815 W. 14th Place. Bring the kids! Let Mona or Jim Bosman know if you plan to attend.



**BACK TO GOD HOUR - The Tree of Life:** We know that Christians talk about this idea of paradise or heaven, but none of it sounds very real. And if heaven is real, how can we be sure that we meet the standards that are required? Find out on the Dec. 20 Back to God Hour. Go to [www.BacktoGod.net](http://www.BacktoGod.net) for local stations and times.

**KIDS CORNER - Mary's Miracle:** Have you ever wondered what Mary thought about the very first Christmas? Was she scared? Excited? Happy? Listen to Mary's Miracle on this week's Kids Corner. Then write to Kids Corner at Box 506, Worth IL 60482 for your very own Bible study.

**WORLD MISSIONS Summer Mission Program** - Go for a summer...be changed forever! Visit [www.crw.org/smp](http://www.crw.org/smp) for information about Christian Reformed World Missions' Summer Mission Program 2010. Young adults can learn about cross-cultural ministry with CRWM missionaries and their national ministry partners in Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Applications are due Feb. 12. Don't miss this great opportunity!

**NEW FROM FAITH ALIVE - Start your day (and your year) with "Daylight"**—a newly updated, classic devotional by Rev. Andrew Kuyvenhoven! Be challenged and inspired as you explore what it means to live every day in the presence and promises of God. Read a sample at [www.FaithAliveResources.org](http://www.FaithAliveResources.org) or call 1-800-333-8300.

**CRWRC: Blessed by His Gift and Yours** - Jesus' birth was one of the greatest sacrifices of all time. He gave up His place in heaven and became human. This was topped only by His additional sacrifice on the cross. This year, as you celebrate Christ's coming, please consider how you can give sacrificially to share His love with others. To see what impact your gifts can have, visit CRWRC's gift catalog at [www.crwrc.org/blessed](http://www.crwrc.org/blessed).

**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).

**LET ME BLESS YOU!** This week Dr. David Schuringa interviews Kootama Lindsay who, as one of CBI's first graduates, has recorded a music CD and oversees a ministry to the inner city poor in Detroit. 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