

**Sunday, December 20, 2009**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Observed**

*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:** Some Children See Him

Some children see Him lily white  
the infant Jesus born this night  
Some children see Him lily white  
with tresses soft and fair

Some children see Him bronzed and brown  
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down  
Some children see Him bronzed and brown  
with dark and heavy hair (with dark and heavy hair!)

Some children see Him almond-eyed  
This Saviour whom we kneel beside  
Some children see Him almond-eyed  
With skin of yellow hue!

Some children see Him dark as they  
Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray  
Some children see Him dark as they  
And, ah! they love Him so!

The children in each different place  
Will see the Baby Jesus' face  
Like theirs but bright with heav'nly grace  
And filled with holy light!

*(continued on next page)*

O lay aside each earthly thing  
and with thy heart as offering  
Come worship now the infant King  
'tis love that's born tonight!

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

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

Reader2: The shepherds were the first to hear  
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth—  
the good news of great joy for all the people.

Reader1: Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word  
concerning what had been told them about this child,  
and all who heard it were amazed.

*(as the candle is lit)*

Reader2: Our waiting gives way to see his plans of love accomplished,  
we see his gift, this newborn child.

**All:       *We are filled with joy.***

\* **Gathering Song:** Angels from the Realms of Glory (grey) PH #354 (v.1-3)

### **\* Responsive Reading**

Pastor: We gather in preparation

**People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

Pastor: We gather in expectation

**People: For joy is about to explode in our midst.**

Pastor: We gather in celebration

**People: for we are those people who have said**

Pastor: yes to the manger,  
yes to love enfleshed,  
yes to the one incarnate for others,  
yes to the love of God.

**All:       *With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!***

\* **Song of Adoration:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (grey) PH #345

### **\* 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 Christ, we confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
Forgive us our failure to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.  
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

**People: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen**

*(Time of silence for personal confession)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Good Christian friends, rejoice!  
Today your Lord comes in love and power,  
In grace and truth, offering hope and peace.  
This promised one, mighty, though small,  
Is our hope, our strength, and our life.  
Friends, believe the good news!

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

**Song of Assurance:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (grey) PH #355  
*(pouring of the water of baptism)*

### **Jesse Tree Children's Moment**

#### **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: Incarnate God, with the angels we sing and glorify your name,  
thankful for all that you have given us:  
for your presence in the world, for our nation,

for our city and its leaders,  
for the witness of your church celebrating around the world.  
But today we are especially grateful for the gift of your Son,  
who gave up his heavenly home for a manger and a cross  
so that we might experience redemption,  
a gift that neither spoils nor fades.

With the angels we also desire peace on earth,  
a peace that is broader and deeper than the end of war.

We pray for the restoration of this world,  
for the growth of your kingdom,

for reconciliation, healing, and renewal.

And now we bring before you our specific prayers,  
spoken and silent:

*(Prayers of the people offered aloud or silently)*

Make your incarnate presence known in each situation,  
and may we as your servants be vessels of your peace.

We pray this in the name of the one who became flesh and dwelt  
among us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Leader: Immanuel, as we wait for your return,  
Help us see your glory and love  
Through the reading and preaching of your Word.  
We pray in your name. **Amen**

**Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 4:1-4 *(Bible page 970)*

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **\* Gospel Reading**

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

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

Reader: John 1: 1-18 *(Bible page 863)*

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

## **THE COMMUNION** (using the grey communion liturgy)

## **RECALLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

### **Children's Procession**

**Song:** Once In Royal David's City (grey) PH #346  
*(During the processional, the Christ candle is lit)*

### **Scripture and Songs of Christmas Joy and Response:**

Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

Away in A Manger *Children vs. 1*

Reading: Luke 2: 8-14

Angels We Have Heard on High (grey) PH #347  
*Children vs. 1; All vs. 2-3*

Reading: Luke 2: 15-20

O Come, All Ye Faithful (grey) PH #340  
*Children vs. 1; All vs. 3-4*

Reading: Matthew 1: 1-12

What Can I Give Him? *Children*

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

\* **Sending Song:** Joy to the World (grey) PH #337 All vs. 1-3

### \* **Benediction**

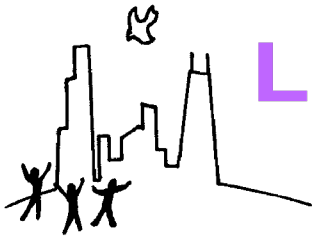
\* **Sending Song:** Joy to the World (grey) PH #337 All vs. 4

## **Announcements**

## **Mission Moment for Campus Ministry**

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# 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)

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Sunday, December 20, 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:** Wendy Will **Music:** Barb Timmermans, Sonja Will, Ginny Landgraf

**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
12/20/09	Steve	Kyle & Joanna	Tim W	Jess T	Tim & Lexi	Singing	practice	Rebecca & Paul
12/27/09	Ginny	Kristin & Abram	Yvana	Matt VZ	Mary & Jim	No	lesson	Corwin & Paul
1/3/10	Daane	Kevin & Mona	Megan H	Tim W	Norma & Rosetta	Sharon	Kevin	Corwin & Kristin
1/10/10	Steve	Jim & Mary	Claire	Rob W	Carolyn	Vera	Kevin	Rebecca & Corwin

### Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sunday, January 10	SJOM Brown Bagging	11:15-11:45 AM	Daystar
Monday, January 11	Worship Team Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Chicago Semester
Tuesday, January 19	Steering Council Meeting	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Church Office
Tuesday, January 19	SJOM Supper	6:15 – 8:00 PM	SJOM
Sunday, January 24	Common Meal	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Daystar

**Offering Update:** Gen Fund: December 13: \$2,589.00, FYTD: \$50,959.08; FYTD Budget: \$64,844.12; Excess (shortfall): (\$13,885.04)

**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.



**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL** - Prayer request: Please pray for the millions of Chinese children who have never heard the story of the Savior's birth. Pray that through distribution of a new children's Chinese music DVD produced by Back to God Ministries International, these children would come to know Jesus and His great love for them.

**BACK TO GOD HOUR - The Paradox of Stewardship:** A quick internet search for "stewardship" brings up over 9 million results. So what is stewardship really? How important is it? Find out on the Dec. 27 Back to God Hour. Go to [www.BacktoGod.net](http://www.BacktoGod.net) for local stations and times.

**KIDS CORNER - Prayer and Action:** Liz is investigating answered prayers. Check out the power of prayer on this week's Kids Corner. Then check out the Kids Corner website at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net) for stories, devotions, puzzles and more.

**WORLD MISSIONS - Prayer for the Nations:** In celebration of this year's Winter Olympics, Christian Reformed World Missions has created five minute prayer video, highlighting ways to pray for countries represented in the Olympics and the ministries of CRWM. To download the video, visit [www.crwmm.org/flags](http://www.crwmm.org/flags).

**CRWRC - How Does CRWRC Say Merry Christmas?** Feliz Navidad. Shuvo Naba Barsha. Joyeux Noel. E ku odun, e ku iye'dun! In five days it will be Christmas! Our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are already celebrating with you. This year, please consider giving a special gift to your global family by donating to CRWRC during the Christmas Day offering.

**LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS** - Give a gift of food or shelter, or gifts that help to spread the good news of salvation through the agencies of the Christian Reformed Church. Go to [crcna.org/gift](http://crcna.org/gift) to see our online gift guide, CRWRC gift catalog and World Missions project giving guide.

**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).

**CHRISTMAS LETTERS FROM PRISON:** In this special Christmas edition of *Crossroad Connection*, Dr. David Schuringa shares prisoner reactions to CBI's Send-A-Card Program and Prison Fellowship's Project Angel Tree. 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