

**Sunday, December 6, 2009**

**Second 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

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

Reader1: God's promises are true. Long ago, God promised:

Reader2: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' (*Jeremiah 33:14-16*)

Reader1: We know that God is faithful. We have seen him fulfill his promises throughout history and we wait in confidence for the final fulfillment.

*(as the candle is lit)*

Reader2: We trust in the promise of Advent: the promise that one day there will be an end to all things that are contrary to your ways, and your light will fill the earth.

**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

Pastor: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**People: As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.**

**All: *Let us worship God.***

\* **Song of Adoration:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (grey) PH #329

## \* GOD GREETES 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 3 and 4)*

*(Time of silence for personal confession)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Friends, believe the good news!

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

**Song of Assurance:** On the Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (grey) PH 327  
(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: God of hope, we rejoice that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return. As we wait our hearts overflow with gratitude: for the beauty of creation, for your work in the world, for signs of peace and reconciliation. We thank you especially for...

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

Leader: For all these reasons and so much more we give you praise. As we celebrate the first coming of your Son as a helpless child, we also yearn for his return, for the day there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death. Today we remember especially

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

Leader: We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our source of hope. Amen

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**

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

**Old Testament Reading:** Numbers 13: 17- 33 *(Bible page 115)*

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

**People: Thanks be to God**

### **\* Gospel Reading**

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

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

Reader: Matthew 11: 7-19 *(Bible page 792)*

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:** Table of Plenty (green) Sing! #247

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

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

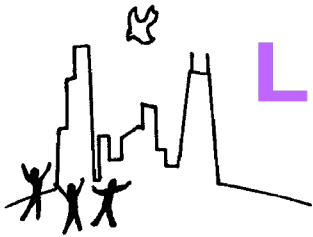
\* **Sending Song:** Soon and Very Soon (green) Sing! 106

### \* **Benediction**

\* **Sending Song:** Soon and Very Soon (green) Sing! 106

### **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)

*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:** Lugene Schemper **Music:** Sheri Dieleman

**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
12/6/09	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
12/27/09	Ginny	Kristin & Abram	Yvana	Matt VZ	Mary & Jim	Singing	practice	Corwin & Paul

### Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sunday, December 6	Congregational Meeting	11:15 – 11:45 AM	Daystar
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: November 29: \$1,485.00, FYTD: \$46,068.08; FYTD Budget: \$59,440.45; Excess (shortfall): (\$13,372.37)

**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.

**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.

**OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE - Advent Devotions on Peace:** As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace this Advent we will focus on the theme of peace. We hope you'll join us to consider how God calls us to better embody our call to be peacemakers in the world. Subscribers will receive an email each weekday with a reflection on the theme — some celebrating peace building work already happening, some raising a longing for peace in a certain region of the world, some encouraging the seeking of peace in our every day lives. Visit [www.crcjustice.org](http://www.crcjustice.org) to subscribe.

**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.

**BACK TO GOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL** - Media has transformed North American culture—but are lives being transformed for the sake of Jesus Christ? Your gifts to support ReFrame Media—Back to God Ministries English-language outreach—help speak the truth of God's Word to today's culture. With your support of several new web-based programs we are able to more effectively reach people of all ages in various stages of their faith journey.

**BACK TO GOD HOUR - Grafted into the Tree:** How many people do you know who at one time were believers in Jesus Christ, but have now rejected him? How can we avoid becoming like dead wood that is pruned from a tree? How can we help others from becoming dead wood? Find out on the Dec. 13 Back to God Hour. Go to [www.BacktoGod.net](http://www.BacktoGod.net) for local stations and times.

**KIDS CORNER - Merry X-Monsters:** What's the true meaning of Christmas? Help Liz figure it all out 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.

**Online registration is now open for the Calvin Symposium on Worship, Jan. 28-30.** Thursday offers 10 day-long seminars and Friday and Saturday include over 80 workshop choices.

The six worship services, which are open to the public, will center around "The Great Stories: Narratives of the Old Testament." Registration and complete information at [www.calvin.edu/worship](http://www.calvin.edu/worship)

**WORLD MISSIONS - 'Tis the season...** Remember your missionaries during this holiday season and send them a card. This is more than a festive greeting - it's a greatly appreciated dose of encouragement and care. Addresses of all CRWM missionaries can be found in the back of your World Missions Calendar

**NEW FROM FAITH ALIVE** - Take a 3,000-year journey through the songs of God's people! "Hymns for Worship" is a new collection of 256 hymns in chronological order from Old Testament psalms to the present. See a sample at [www.FaithAliveResources.org](http://www.FaithAliveResources.org) or call 1-800-333-8300.

**CRC NEWS** - This week's stories include: Synodical Faith Formation Committee Releases Bible Study, CRC's Office of Social Justice Announces Song Winners, Drug Cartels Threaten CRC-approved Ministry, Science Can Play Part in Worship. To read these and subscribe to the weekly email, visit [www.crcna.org/news](http://www.crcna.org/news).

**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)

**TELL THE WORLD THAT JESUS LIVES!** This week Dr. David Schuringa shares the third and final reason from Luke 24 for how you can be absolutely certain that Jesus is alive in the world today! 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