

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Psalm 105:1*

**THANK YOU** to those who are serving us during worship today.

**MUSICIANS:** Jan Johnson & Angie Meester

**GREETERS.** Today – North Door – Marlyn & Marcia Allspach  
South Door – Melvin Riebkes & Rod Mulder

**Next Sunday:** North Door – Pat & Deb Prier  
South Door – Dale & Angie Meester

**USHERS.** Today – Mark Kramer

**Next Sunday** – N/A

**VALET PARKING.** Today – Kevin Meester

**Next Sunday** – Mike Stirling

**COFFEE SERVERS.** This week – Dennis & Lois Mennen

Next week – Pat & Deb Prier

*Please note: If there are any differences between the schedule in the bulletin and the schedule in the Shepherd's Staff, please follow the schedule in the Shepherd's Staff.*

### **THIS WEEK AT PARKERSBURG CRC**

Today	9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service 6:00 p.m. – Home for Christmas
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. – Christmas Service
Next Sunday	9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service 6:00 p.m. – Evening Worship Service

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Congratulations** to Paul and Ruth Haan, who will be observing their 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on December 26.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Everyone is invited** for coffee and fellowship following the worship service this morning.

**There will be** no second offering next Sunday.

**The fourth candle** on the Advent wreath will remind us of firstborn sons, especially the firstborn son of Mary, the Son of God who came to give his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Our Advent series, “In Those Days”, is written by Carol Geisler.

**Please join us** tonight at 6:00 p.m. for our annual “Home for Christmas” celebration! We will be “Singing Through Christmas” with special guest musicians, Christmas carols, and retelling the Christmas story, followed by a light supper. Bring a friend or two as we look forward to sharing holiday fun and fellowship with you!

**Donations of Christmas goodies** for the “Home for Christmas” program tonight would be greatly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed!

**“Home for Christmas” participants** are asked to meet at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon to walk through the program.

**The gift bags** in the Fellowship Hall are to gather cards for the holidays that will be distributed before Christmas. Please place your cards in the bags no later than December 22 morning worship.

**There will be no** Life Plus on December 25 or January 1. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 8.

**The General Fund Collection** for December 15 was \$2,029.50. The target amount for each week is \$2,411.00. The collection for Faith Promise totaled \$178.00.

**Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church**

Morning Service

December 22, 2019 – 9:30 AM

**WE COME NEAR TO GOD**

Prelude

Welcome

**\*Call to Worship: Responsive Reading Psalm 107:1, 4-7**

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

**C ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations...’**

P I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

**C He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

P And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

**C My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.”**

\*Song: TCH 275 **Sing We Now of Christmas**

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle**

Reader: God spoke through the prophets, telling his people of the promised Savior to come. That Savior, the Messiah, God’s anointed one, would be born in Bethlehem, and so Mary and Joseph journeyed to the city of David. “And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

**Cong.: And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”**

Reader: We light the fourth candle on our Advent as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus our Lord, the firstborn son of Mary and the Son of God.

**Cong.: To us a child is born, to us a son is given!**

\*Song: TCH 279 **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

### **Confession and Absolution Responsive Reading**

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We seek to satisfy our own needs instead of serving others in love. We turn from listening to your Word to listen to the tempting voices of the world. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Help us to walk in your ways.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his only Son, the firstborn son of Mary, to be our Savior. Jesus our Savior died on the cross and rose from the dead to bring us forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C To us a child is born, to us a son is given!**

Children's Message

Song: TCH 258 (vs. 1&3) **Go, Tell It On the Mountain**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-14 (pg. 31)

Special Music: Mel Riebkes – O Holy Night

### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Scripture: **John 3:14-17** (pg. 1650)

Message: **HER FIRSTBORN SON**

Prayer of Dedication

### **RESPONSE OF LOVE, GRATITUDE AND SERVICE**

\*Song: TCH 270 **Joy to the World!**

Morning Prayer

Offertory and Offering: 1) General Fund  
2) Food Pantry

\*Song: TCH 253 **Silent Night! Holy Night!**

\*God's Blessing

\*Closing Song: TCH 243 **Emmanuel**

\*Postlude

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### **MESSAGE NOTES**