

Sunday, December 1, 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 – Mike Ascher Family

South Door – Dave & Betty Mulder

Next Sunday: North Door – Mike Stirling Family

South Door – Marlyn & Marcia Allspach

USHERS. Today – Mark Kramer

Next Sunday – Gerald Haan

VALET PARKING. Today – Dale Meester

Next Sunday – John Oltman

COFFEE SERVERS. This week – Kevin & Shelly Meester

Next week – Ryan & Stacy Edeker

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 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School 6:00 p.m. – Welcome Christmas Service at Calvary Baptist Church
Monday	7:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
Wednesday	1:30 p.m. – Sunshine Circle Christmas Tea 6:15 p.m. – Life Plus
Next Sunday	9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m. – Congregational Meeting 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School 6:00 p.m. – Evening Worship Service

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Rod Mulder had surgery for total knee replacement in both knees last week and was expected to come home on Thursday. Pray for God's healing hands during his recovery.

Dear Congregation: We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful support during our time of loss. Thank you to Pastor Russ for his visits to the hospital, his words of comfort and prayers. Thanks to the congregation for the prayers and cards and meals brought to our house in our time of need. Thank you also for your support of over \$1000 given to the Life Plus program as a memorial to Betty. Thanks for the beautiful remembrance given to us by the Council, but most of all thanks and praise to God for his comforting care and grace. We do covet your continuing prayers during the days that lie ahead, especially as we celebrate our Lord's birth. Blessings to you all. **Pastor Frank Pott and family.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

There will be no second offering next Sunday.

Please join in the Welcome Christmas worship tonight at Calvary Baptist Church, sponsored by the Parkersburg Ministerial Association. The Service starts at 6 PM with fellowship following the worship.

Council is scheduled to meet Monday at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

The Sunshine Circle is hosting their annual Christmas Tea on December 4 (this coming Wednesday) at 1:30 PM. We are promising an afternoon filled with things to learn, things to eat, things to laugh and smile about as well as a chance to visit with old friends and meet some new ones. It will be a great way to start your holiday season. We hope that you can join us! A reminder to the Sunshine Circle members to bring your items for the cookie boxes.

Council has scheduled December 8 after the morning worship for the congregational meeting to decide the budget for 2020.

The General Fund Collection for November 24 was \$4,205.45. The target amount for each week is \$2,411.00. The November 24 offering for Student Connection totaled \$157.00.

There is now another way to give offering! You can now give your offering electronically on the church website. It can be set up on a one-time, weekly or monthly basis, using your credit card or from your bank account. You can give to special or faith promise offerings as well. There is also an option to add extra to the offering to cover the transaction fees that are involved. Giving is confidential, no one else on the website will see what you are giving or who is giving. To get started, go to: <http://www.parkersburg-crc.org/give>

Christmas Cookies and Tasty Treats: Let Timothy Christian School do the baking for you this season! You are invited to attend Timothy Christian School's Cookie Walk on Friday, December 6 from 8:30-11 AM at the United Reformed Church in Wellsburg (608 S. Adams). Select from trays and trays of wonderfully decorated cookies and candies. Fill up a box available at the church and pay by the pound. Relax as you enjoy a complimentary piece of homemade coffee cake with a cup of hot cider or coffee. Clay ornaments made by the art students will also be available for purchase. To place an order for delivery in the area, please call 641-869-3679 on Thursday, December 5 from 8:30 AM - 3 PM. We look forward to seeing you!

Today, as we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, we remember the decree of Caesar Augustus that sent Mary and Joseph on a journey to Bethlehem, where our Savior was born. Our Advent series, "In Those Days", is written by Carol Geisler.

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Morning Service

December 1, 2019 – 9:30 AM

WE COME NEAR TO GOD

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship: Responsive Reading Psalm 148:1-6**

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

C Amen.

P Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

P Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

C Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

P Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.

C And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

*Song: TCH 260 **Worthy, You Are Worthy**

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Reader: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Cong.: This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria."

Reader: Long before Caesar's decree, God decreed that a great king, an eternal king, would be born in Bethlehem: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,

Cong.: From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

Reader: We light the first candle on our Advent wreath as we remember God's decree, his promise that the King of kings would be born in Bethlehem.

Cong.: Our Lord and King, we rejoice in your birth, in the promise fulfilled!

*Song: TCH 244 **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Confession and Absolution Responsive Reading

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

C Almighty God, we confess to you that we daily turn from your will to follow our own sinful desires. Instead of listening to your Word, we listen to the tempting voices of the world around us. We do not love and serve others as we should. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered and died so that our sins can be forgiven. He rose up from death to give us eternal 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 Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the promises of your Word and for the gift of your Son, our Savior!

Children's Message – Marcia

Song: TCH 250 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-4

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-5** (pg. 650)

Message: **A DECREE WENT OUT**

Prayer of Dedication

RESPONSE OF LOVE, GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

*Song: TCH 280 **One Small Child**

Morning Prayer

Offertory and Offering: 1) General Fund
2) Building Improvement

*Song: TCH 245 **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

*God's Blessing

*Closing Song: TCH 243 **Emmanuel**

*Postlude

MESSAGE NOTES