



Sunday , December 22, 2024

Week 4 of Advent  
Worship Leader  
Paul Droogers

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**Welcome to this gathering of the church!**

**“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord”  
2 Corinthians 4:5**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Having a place in the world, today, means we need credentials. Resumes spell out our personal accomplishments. The better the resume, the better our place in the world. The gospel of Matthew curiously shapes the beginning of Jesus' story with Jesus' resume or genealogy. What mattered then was family accomplishments. So far, we've seen with surprise that Jesus is not ashamed to call Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth his family or friends. Today we marvel at God's extravagant grace in Bathsheba's life (Matthew 1:6). The fact that Matthew deliberately refers to her as "Uriah's wife" points us to the importance of Christmas: Jesus "with us" is the only credential that ultimately matters.

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Droogers

Welcome

\*Gathering Song: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, LUYH 56

\*God's Greeting

\*Opening Song: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, LUYH 76 (vs 1, 3, 4)

Advent Candle Lighting: *Joy*

Song of Expectation: *Come, Light Our Hearts*, CCLI 7054135

Confession & Assurance

Music Ministry: *A Child is Born*

Faith Story: Tanya Reurink

Offering: North County Interfaith Food Bank

Prayer

\*Children's Song: *We Three Kings*, CCLI 38002 (vs 1, 5)

*Sunday School Dismissal (Age 3 to Grade 6)*

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 11: 2-5 & 1 Kings 1: 15-21

Prayer

Message: **A Mother's Resilience**

\*Song of Response: *This is Jesus*, CCLI 7136931

\*Parting Blessing

\*Doxology: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, LUYH 81 (vs 1, 4, 5)



*\*Please rise, in body or spirit*

## Iron Springs CRC Vision:

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we strive to be a caring, Christ centered community of believers, nurturing spiritual growth and sharing God's love at home, work and abroad.

## Carrying Everything to God in Prayer:

One of the most powerful ways that God's extravagant grace is expressed and experienced is through prayer and being prayed for. *"Prayer brings grace into our lives,"* writes Dennis Pollock. *"This is true for our initial salvation, and it will be true throughout our lives with all sorts of needs for various lesser graces. Prayer brings grace. Where there is much prayer, there is much grace."* Be invited to remember the following before God's throne of grace:

- as a church family we extend our sincere condolences to Adriana & John V following the death of two brothers-in-law to Adriana in the Netherlands. Barend had cancer and Pieter was 90. They were married to Adriana's oldest and youngest siblings. Pray God comfort all who grieve this loss.
- pray for all who find Christmas a particularly difficult time of year. Pray God comfort those who grieve, encourage those struggling with mental health, draw near to those who are lonely, heal relationship hurts, embrace those who doubt, gift wisdom to those experiencing life transitions, and be uniquely present in the lives of individuals who have disabilities.
- we remain mindful of all who suffer sickness. Pray for Mary B, sister to Tony & Karen K; for Joanne B, mother to James & Deanna and Justin & Lenae ; for Henry D, brother to Len & Chris D; for Reinder Jan P, brother to Hieke & Cor V; as each struggle with cancer. We give thanks that Henry D for now is holding his own.
- we pray for Kennedy H, great granddaughter of Audrey K, as she has been diagnosed with Epstein-Barr lymphoma (EB), pray for strength and discernment as treatment starts.
- we look forward to our Candlelight Service tonight! Pray God bless this time of worship, including all those participating and in attendance.
- on Wednesday morning we hope to gather for Christmas Day worship. Pray the Holy Spirit draw us into community, readies our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth, and move us to join the angels bringing "glory to God in the highest."
- as schools are heading into Christmas break, pray for staff, students, and families as they experience a change in routine and enjoy various activities.
- the last few weeks there have been several fatal accidents on area roads. Pray safety for all who are traveling, pray for emergency services, and pray for families who have lost loved ones.
- this weekend we have opportunity to support the North County Interfaith Food Bank by way of our offerings. Pray for all volunteers as they give of their time this busy season. Pray for all individuals or families served by the food bank; may they experience great encouragement.
- on Wednesday our offering will be for Streets Alive Mission. Pray the Lord will bless their ministry including their vision for how they believe God is calling them to serve the poor in Lethbridge.
- we give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate Christmas here in Canada. Pray for areas of the world where people experience war, conflict, death, devastation, corruption, or various other kinds of instability.

**Birthdays this week:** Wednesday- Evert T, Cor V Saturday- Tanya S

**Calendar**

Dec 22- Candlelight Service 6pm  
 Dec 25- Christmas Day Service 10am  
 Jan 4- Cadet Bottle Drive

	<b>Dec 22</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Jan 5</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Heidi S	Delbert V	Delbert V	Rowena S
<b>Greeters</b>	Kees & Steven	John & Paulette	Jr High Youth	Leighton & Elinor
<b>Ushers</b>	Heidi/Hieke	Brendan/Brent	Tanya/Allan	Glorianna/Braeden
<b>Coffee</b>	Len & Nancy Bill & Alina	John & Paulette	Arie & Gea Tony & Hilda	Gys & Silia Gerbrand & Sylvana
<b>Nursery</b>	Kaitlyn G/ Candace D/ Owen P.	Chloe V/ Aleena V./ Liza S	Alyson K/ Ryder V./ Everlee B.	

**Deacons (Offering Schedule)**

**Dec. 22 - North County Interfaith Food Bank** - Together with our surrounding local faith community and others, we support the Food Bank. We have been given more than enough for each and every day and this is an opportunity to help those around us who are less fortunate or temporarily unable to provide.

**Dec. 25 - Streets Alive** - As another close to home support opportunity, we support Streets Alive on Christmas Day. Streets Alive Mission exists to provide for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the poor, to empower them to change their lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Dec. 29 - ELIM Society for Senior Citizens Care** - Elim Society for Senior's Care is a faith-based charity created in 1969 by Reformed Christian People in Southern Alberta to address the housing needs of their seniors. We desire to provide safe, secure and affordable housing with activities that support Christian faith and lifestyle.

**Ways to Give:** offering bag during worship, The Bridge App (reminder there is a 3% charge to the church if you use a credit card), automatic withdrawal, or e-transfer. Feel free to connect with our treasurer, Peter V, at treasurer@ironspringscrc.com if you have any questions or would like some help with online giving.

**Iron Springs CRC Announcements**

**Candlelight Service-** Come celebrate the birth of our Savior *tonight* during our Candlelight service December 22nd at 6pm

We look forward to enjoying a children's play as well as hearing the choir sing. We kindly ask that you bring a plate of goodies to share. We look forward to seeing you all there!

### **Cadet Bottle Drive January 4, 2025**

Our plan is to complete the bottle drive on Saturday January 4 to help fund our activities. Below are our thoughts;

- if you would like to donate your returnables - let a counselor know and we'll gladly figure out a pickup. The plan is to have teams out together doing pickups from 9:30-11:30 Saturday morning. The hope is you would put the bottles outside and we could take them from there.
- if you would rather deliver your bottles anytime from now until Jan 4, the Picture Butte Bottle Depot has an account set up for us to be able to receive them. We will also be on location Jan 4 until 11:30 to coordinate and minimize people needing to enter the depot. Last year we used the back entrance to not disrupting their regular business, so you could bring the bottles on over.
- if the above date doesn't fit within your schedule or you're just really eager to clean out the garage, let us know and we'll make a plan.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to some more fun and fellowship this year.

All the best,

Dave K & Brent V

### **Church Transportation**

The deacons are looking at providing bus transportation for those needing a ride to church from Picture Butte. If there is enough interest, we will proceed to make this possible, plans are to run from January to March/April. Please contact any deacon if you are interested.

### **Community Announcements**

**CALGARY CAMPUS MINISTRY** - As December comes to a close, we at the Calgary Campus Ministry want to say, "thank you." For over 20 years, your church has supported the good work on university campuses done by Paul Verhoef, Pearl Nieuwenhuis, Layne Kilbreath and Jacqui Mignault. Even though this ministry shifts outside of our classis, the gospel work of the Calgary Campus Ministry continues through Paul and Jacqui. We invite you to stay connected to this work -- as a church and/or as an individual! We also invite you to pray for us, this ministry, and these universities. If you want to be on our email list and receive our newsletters, send a note to [calgarycampusministry@gmail.com](mailto:calgarycampusministry@gmail.com)! May the Lord bless and keep you!

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Bulletin Deadline: **Thursday 9:00 am**  
Website: [www.ironspringscrc.com](http://www.ironspringscrc.com)

If you would like more information about our ministry, or how you might join us as we serve God together, please be invited to connect with our church office, our leadership, or take a few minutes to browse our church website!

## CRCNA Announcements

### ReFrame Ministries

**Kids Corner: Advent Week 4: The Blessing** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). We cannot repay God for his love. What we can do is give his love to others and bless those around us the same way God blesses us. Christ is the ultimate blessing, and when we receive him, it's not something we keep to ourselves. As God's children, he wants us to share the good news of Jesus's birth, death, and resurrection with others. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Shepherds.

**Groundwork: Jesus: Our Prince of Peace** - As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in his birth, that he promises to establish permanently when he returns, and how we can be his agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - For you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, "It is finished"; for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand. All this he did for you, though you do not know it yet. And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled: "We love because God loved us first." –Adapted from the French Reformed Church liturgy During this week of Christmas, tell the familiar story of the birth of our Savior with the hope of hearing it in new and beautiful ways, remembering Christ's incarnation and birth for YOU. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

**Consejo de Formación en la Fe de Thrive** - Por ti Jesucristo vino al mundo; por ti vivió y mostró el amor de Dios; por ti sufrió la oscuridad del Calvario y clamó al final, "Todo está cumplido"; por ti triunfó sobre la muerte y resucitó en novedad de vida; por ti ascendió para reinar a la diestra de Dios. Todo esto lo hizo por ti, aunque aún no lo sabes. Y así se cumple la palabra de la Escritura: "Nosotros amamos porque Dios nos amó primero". –Adaptado de la liturgia de la Iglesia Reformada Francesa Durante esta semana de Navidad, cuenta la familiar historia del nacimiento de nuestro Salvador con la esperanza de escucharla de nuevas y hermosas maneras, recordando la encarnación y el nacimiento de Cristo por TI. Presentado por Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive).

### CRC Communications

**An Advent Greeting from the CRCNA** - As we prepare for Christmas, the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America wish to share with you the Christmas story and find comfort in God's faithfulness. Watch this short video at [youtube.com/watch?v=gLDIlg-9DLKY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=gLDIlg-9DLKY) Have a blessed Christmas!  
World Renew



**Jesus Christ is Born!** - As we exchange gifts at Christmas, we celebrate Jesus, God's great gift to us. Will you add someone in need to your Christmas giving today? Your financial gift to World Renew helps people around the world who live in poverty improve their lives and find a home for their heart in Jesus. Please give generously in today's offering for World Renew, go to [worldrenew.ca/gifts](http://worldrenew.ca/gifts) or call 1-888-975-3769.

**Journey with World Renew in 2025!** - World Renew offers global engagement journeys to educate and equip Canadians about the story of poverty. Plan to join us in the new year to experience World Renew firsthand. Opportunities include Discovery Tours to Honduras, Uganda, and Cambodia, as well as the Guatemala Christian Leaders Tour and Nicaragua Young Adults Trip. Visit [worldrenew.ca/volunteer](http://worldrenew.ca/volunteer) for trip dates and register today!

### **Calvin University**

**The January Series** - The January Series of Calvin University returns January 20 through January 31. From Paralympians to historians, adventurers, and innovators, we have a topic for you to deepen your curiosity. Join us in the Covenant Fine Arts Center on the campus of Calvin University or online. More information can be found at [www.calvin.edu/january-series](http://www.calvin.edu/january-series)  
Diaconal Ministries Canada

**Your Support Matters** - Diaconal Ministries Canada has been supporting Canadian deacons for over 20 years, helping them live out their mandate to transform communities with Christ's love. Of the hundreds of deacons we work with over the course of a year, one thing we hear over and over again is how tremendously beneficial the synergy between their diaconates and Diaconal Ministries has been. And we couldn't do this without the financial and prayerful support of churches and individual donors. Please consider a year-end gift or become a monthly donor so our work can continue to expand. Visit our website at [diaconalministries.com](http://diaconalministries.com) or send us an e-transfer to [dmcfinance@crcna.org](mailto:dmcfinance@crcna.org). Thank you and may God bless you richly this Christmas as you bless those around you!

### **The Banner**

**Year End Support for The Banner!** - Help The Banner reach its annual goal of raising \$500,000 by giving before December 31. Your gift will enable The Banner to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Christian content for another full year. Please donate now at [TheBanner.org/Give](http://TheBanner.org/Give)

### **Global Coffee Break**

**Start the New Year with a Study** - Join one of our Global Coffee Break Online Zoom Studies. Here is your opportunity to participate in a CRCNA resource led by their team. Space is limited. Men, women and young adults welcome. Go to [Globalcoffeebreak.org/events](http://Globalcoffeebreak.org/events) for more information and to register!