

December 5, 2021 • 9:30 AM

Prelude

Opening

Welcome

O Come, O Come Emmanuel - #61 (1,2,4,6,7)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song: *Come, Lord Jesus*

Choir - *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* - Sleeth arr. Marshall

Confession and Assurance

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout - #69

Thanks

Offerings: General Fund and Sparrow's Nest

Congregational Prayer

God's Word

Children's Blessing

Text: Luke 2:21-39

Message: "God's Christmas Display: *Reliability*"

Sending

I Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1,3,4)

God's Blessing

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Ore

Advent Candle Lighter & Readers - Maggie Mustaine, Mary Cate Mustaine
Derek Polischuk – Pianist and Worship Ensemble Leader
Laurie Harkema – Organist and Choir Director
Kathleen Prince – Accompanist
Worship Ensemble, Choir, Veronica Polischuk, Miles Polischuk
Pastor Ken Bieber – Liturgist
Pastor Brent Wassink - Message

TODAY

Nursery: OPEN 9:15-11:45 AM for children ages 0-4

Giving Envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall.

Coffee Time: following the worship service in the Gym.

Greenhouse: meets during the service in Room 3 on the lower level. Children (ages 5 and up) are dismissed after the Children's Blessing.

Children's Ministry: see the Children's page of our website for multi age Sunday School lessons, Greenhouse and more.

Q&A Time with Members of RTC Council: Meets at 5:00 PM in the Gym. If you have questions or concerns regarding the change to our worship services we value your thoughts and encourage you to reach out to Pastor Brent, Melissa Keeley, Chair of Council, Sandee DeVries, Chair of Elders, or Wendy Hofman, Elder/Worship Team Member.

Ignite: Middle & high school students meet **Sunday Evenings** from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Ignite Room. Check out our Instagram (@ignitertc) each day for something new.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45-11:30 AM

Children's Sunday School: (5 years-grade 5) - in the Quad

Youth Sunday School: Dive (grades 6-8) - Room 24, HC (Heidelberg Catechism) and Me (grades 9-12) - Ignite Room

Bethel Series New Testament: led by Mary Ann Harkema in Fellowship Hall

Sermon Discussion Group: Led by Dave Ruark, this group will meet in the Gym.

THIS WEEK

Men's Sunrise Bible Study: Wed. 6:45 AM - Meeting Room

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Wed. 10:00 AM in the Quad led by Rev. Dara Nykamp

Choir Rehearsal: Wed. from 6:30-7:45 PM in the Sanctuary

Campus Edge Fellowship: Bible Study Mondays at 7:00 PM at the ministry house and on-line. **Pub Theology on Wednesdays at 8:30 PM** at the Peanut Barrel. Email dara@campusedgemsu.com or call 616-283-7563 for more details!

UPCOMING

Nativity Play Rehearsals: Sunday, Dec. 12 & 19. At least one practice is required to participate in the Family Christmas Eve Nativity Play. Please let Carla know if your kids want to participate, parents are welcome to help and participate as well. Let Preston know if your teen would like to be involved in the Family Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Carols, Campfire, Cocoa and Cookies: Join us on Dec. 12 at 5:00 PM for an outdoor caroling event for all ages.

Christmas Eve Family Service: Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS and PRAYERS

Our sympathies go to John and Karen Bollman, on the recent passing of John's father.

Continued prayers are appreciated for Henry Boyer, Oakley Kwekel, Lucille Kuiper, Jane Outsley, Randy Piebenga, Dave Poquette, Christina Simpson, Margie Stephenson, and Lynn Stewart.

God's Christmas Display: *Reliability*

Luke 2.21-39

Why wait?

1. Alternatives

2. Waiting then

3. "...the door of freedom has to be opened from the _____."

How long must we wait?

1. Simeon's situation

2. What's similar: when not ____.

What do we do while we wait?

1. What we see in Joseph and Mary and Simeon and Anna

2. Ways to wait...

Discussion questions

1. On a scale of 1-10, how good are you at waiting? Describe.
2. Do difficulties drain or fuel your hope in Christ's return? Explain.
3. "A prison cell...opened from the outside...is not a bad picture of Advent." Discuss.
4. How long must we wait? Do you ask this? How do you answer?
5. What are some ways Simeon and Anna and Mary and Joseph coach us in waiting?