

## Our Response

Rejoice that in Christ you are a new creation, fully

\_\_\_\_\_, fully \_\_\_\_\_, fully \_\_\_\_\_,

and fully \_\_\_\_\_. Fill your thoughts with these

truths so that you might be filled with His

\_\_\_\_\_.

### Life Application Questions

❖ *What weight is upon your heart this morning? What truths from God's Word can lift that load?*

❖ *What can you do this week to embrace and live into God's promises that in Christ you are a new creation – forgiven, adequate, loved, purified, and under His constant care?*

## Prayer Fellowship

### **Recovery & Intercession:**

~**Don De Good** has been moved to Metron of Cedar Springs for rehab.

~**Gary Gingrich** had knee replacement surgery on Dec 7. Home & doing well.

~**Ken Westrate** is home and continues to improve.

~**Medical concerns of various Haiti individuals, especially Jorvens.**

~**Carol Riegling** continues to deal with health issues.

~**Elaine Pierson** is in Hospice care at Raybrook Manor.

~**Dave Mundwiler** – tumor is stable, continues treatment.

~**Bill Boyd** continues dialysis and awaits a transplant.

~**Ray Dulyea** continued prayer his kidney "numbers" will not change.

~Be in prayer for **disaster victims**, and **people searching for jobs**.

~Pray for our military: **Emily Bowers, Nick Welch** and all military personnel.

### **Extended Family:**

~**Carrol Orton** (Sharon Dulyea's sister) diagnosed with breast cancer.

~**Cheri DeGood** (Don & Doris' daughter-in-law) back surgery on Dec 2.

~**Nancy Kingma** (cousin of Pomrankas) diagnosed with B-cell Lymphoma.

~**Brandon Homrich** (Newkirk's son-in-law) chemo is working. One tumor remains.

~**Kathy Lambers** (friend of Bergman's) 6<sup>th</sup> battle with Leiomyosarcoma.

~**Barry Lambers** (Kathy's husband) suffered spinal injury, paralyzed waist down.

~**Helen Heemstra** (Terri Katsma's mom) undergoing chemo treatments.

~**Jan Lapp** (Tyler's mom) has finished treatments, no significant improvement.

### **Praise & Thanksgiving:**

**John & Joan Harding** will celebrate 65 years of marriage on Dec 24.

### **Sympathy:**

Sympathy is expressed to **Larry & Diann Bertsch and family** at the death of Diann's brother, **Dean Chipman**, on Dec. 15

## Welcome!

We are glad you're here! We want your experience to be a good one, so we have put together a bit of info to help you know what to expect while you are here.

**Our worship service:** Thanks for joining us today! We will begin the service with singing. Feel free to stand, sing, or just listen as we express our worship to God. If you don't know the songs, don't worry, just follow along with the words on the screen!

**The message:** This is a time of practical teaching from the Bible. Often, multi-media presentations are incorporated to supplement the message. There is space in the bulletin to take notes if you wish.

**The offering:** This is a time to share with the church how God has blessed us financially. If you are visiting, don't feel you have to contribute. The only thing we'd like from you is your connections card (bulletin insert).

**Prayer time:** We will pray together a couple of times throughout the service.

**Refreshments:** Join us for coffee in the lobby after service! Visitors may pick up a complementary gift mug and welcome packet. If you have any questions, this is the place to find answers!

**Childcare:** Your children are welcome to remain with you throughout the service! We love that our church is a welcoming place for families. We do have a nursery for children ages 0-3 years if you would prefer to use that. We also have a parent-infant room near the back of the sanctuary for fussy children and nursing mothers. Children ages 3-7 are invited to participate in Children's Worship, an age-appropriate worship and learning time. Children start service with their parents and will be dismissed part way through. If you are unfamiliar with this program, you are encouraged to accompany your kids the first time. They can be picked up after each service in Room 112 on the lower level. Children 8 and older are encouraged to remain in the service with their parents. Children's bulletins are available.

**Formality:** We have no dress code. Whether you are in jeans or a tux, we're just glad you're here! You are also welcome to sip your coffee or read along with scripture passages on your mobile devices. We just ask that you silence your phones as a courtesy to others.

To learn more about our ministries and beliefs, be sure to pick up a welcome packet in the lobby or visit our website: [rockfordreformedchurch.org](http://rockfordreformedchurch.org).

**Vision:** To always be a living reflection of Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the community.

**Mission:** To connect people to Jesus Christ and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Him through worship and fellowship, so they will reach out to serve and disciple others for the glory of God.

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Rockford Reformed Church  
connecting • growing • serving

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Worship @ 8:45am & 11:00am



Joy Has Dawned

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONGS OF WORSHIP

*Angels We Have Heard On High, O Come O Come Emmanuel*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE) Clayton Family

*O Holy Night*

Children (ages 3 years - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) are invited to KidLife Worship downstairs

OFFERING

Audrey Shantz, *Winter Snow*

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14 (p.783); John 3:16-17 (p.811)

MESSAGE

"A Christmas Carol: God & Sinners Reconciled!"

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Pastor Paul Bradford

RESPONSE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

CLOSING BLESSING

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

(8:45am) Polly Johnson, Madelyn McConnon (11:00am) Pam & Kathryn Jacobs, Melissa Fisk

Today's KidLife Worship Volunteers:

(8:45am) Krista & Abby Vande Heuvel (11:00am) Rachel & Sami De Kuiper, Karissa Ellis

Next Sunday: "A Christmas Carol: O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Multiple Verses • Pastor Paul Bradford

## What's Going On?

### Today:

**8:20am: Prayer** in Room #212 to pray over the services. All welcome!

**10:00am: Sunday School** for all ages:

**NOTE: NO Sunday School on December 25 & Jan 1**

- **Ages 3 – DK** meet in Classroom #111
- **Grades K-5<sup>th</sup> grade** meet in Classroom #101
- **Middle School** (grades 6-8) Youth Room #153
- **High School** (grades 9-12) Classroom #246
- **Adults:** "Staying In Love," led by Kevin & Polly Johnson in Rm#253.

**5:00pm: Annual Congregational Meeting.** Selection of Elders & Deacons and approval of the 2017 Budget. Child care provided. Absentee ballots and Pre-view packets are on the desk in the back of the sanctuary. Deadline for Absentee ballots is noon today.

**6:30pm: High School Youth Group.** Meet in the Youth Room #153

### This Week:

**Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm: Weekly Prayer Meeting** in the sanctuary.

**Tuesdays, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Breakfast.** Join us any time.

**Tuesdays, 9:30-11am: Women's Bible Study** – "Speaking Wisely," led by Marcia Coleman and Jean Boyd in Rm #212.

### Wednesday Night Activities:

**Off Dec 21 and Dec 28.**

**All Wednesday Night Activities resume on January 4**

**Last Thursday/month, 7:00-8:30pm: Ladies Book Club.** Fireside Rm #253.

Dec/Jan Book: *The Gate* by Dann A. Stouten. Next meeting is Jan 26.

**Every other Saturday, 7:30-8:30am: Men's Study Breakfast.** "A Man and His Traps." Meet in the Fireside Rm #253. Next meeting – Jan 14.

### Announcements/Events - GENERAL:

**Mailboxes and bulletin boards are in the church office hallway.**

**Communion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month

**The church office will be CLOSED on Mon, Dec 19.**

**Fri, Dec 23: Christmas Candlelight Services at 4:00pm & 6:00pm.** "A Christmas Carol: What Child is This?" Offering is for the Benevolent Fund to help with medical costs for Jorvens. Child Care provided.

**Sun, Dec 25: Christmas Day – ONE Service at 10:00am**

**Year-End Contributions** must be received in the church office, or on-line, no later than **12:00noon on Fri, Dec 30.**

**Mentors needed for Kids Hope!** Contact Audrey Shantz, [audreyschantz@gmail.com](mailto:audreyschantz@gmail.com)

**On-line Giving:** You can give directly from your phone or computer! There's a link to the form on the front page of our website [www.RockfordReformedChurch.org](http://www.RockfordReformedChurch.org)



### Announcements/Events - YOUTH:

Brian Ellis: [brian@rockfordrc.org](mailto:brian@rockfordrc.org)

**Sunday School at 10:00am: MS (Youth Room #153), HS (Rm #246)**

**NOTE: NO Sunday School on December 25 & Jan 1**

**MS meets on Wednesdays @ 6:30pm, HS meets on Sundays @ 6:30pm**

**NO MS meeting Dec 21 and Dec 28**

**NO HS meeting Dec 25 and Jan 1**

### Announcements/Events - CHILDREN:

Children's Ministries – Beth Jennings, Director: [beth@rockfordrc.org](mailto:beth@rockfordrc.org)

KidLife Club – Laura Jolliffe, Director: [laura@rockfordrc.org](mailto:laura@rockfordrc.org)

KidLife Sunday School for ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade at 10:00am

**NOTE: NO Sunday School on December 25 & Jan 1**

KidLife Club (formerly Pioneer Clubs)

Wednesdays: 6:00pm Simple Supper, 6:30pm Club

**NO Wednesday Activities Dec 21 and Dec 28.**

### Attendance / Finance:

Last week's attendance: 295

Last week's Ministry & Missions offering: \$10,213.16

Last week's FLC Debt Reduction offering: \$3,366.00

Last week's Benevolent Fund offering: \$5,000.00

## God and Sinners Reconciled!

*4<sup>th</sup> in Series: A Christmas Carol*

Text: Luke 2:8–14

Sunday: 12/18/2016

### Intro

### God's Word

① **Christ brings** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

② **Christ stirs** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Christ, by highest heaven adore; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the God head see; Hail the- incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

③ **Christ brings** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.*

④ **Christ restores** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Come, Desire of Nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Rise, the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head  
Adam's likeness now efface, Stamp Thine image in its place:  
Second Adam from above, Reinstate us in Thy love.*