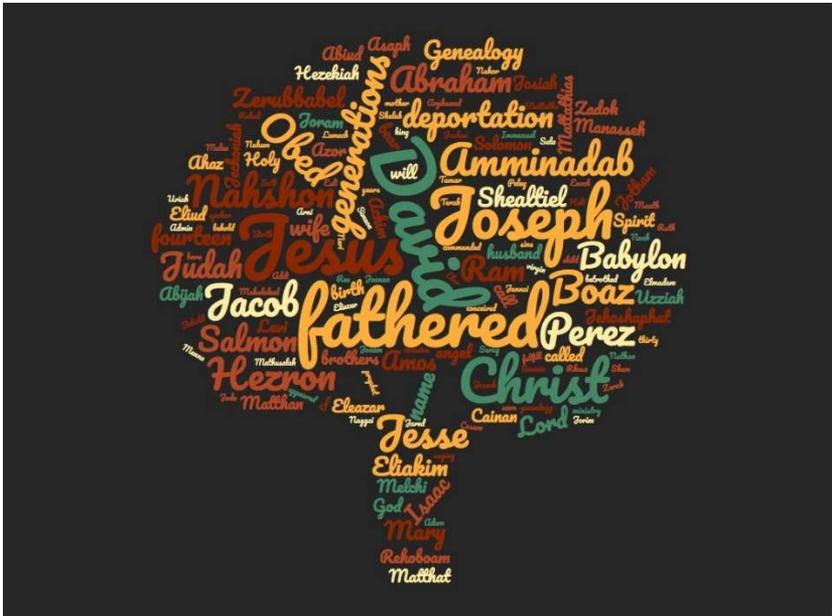


# ALAMEDA Christian Reformed CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
DECEMBER 03, 2017



## “Jesus’s Family Tree and Ours”

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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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9:30 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Family Worship Service
12:00 noon	Fellowship Hour
1:00 pm	Choir Practice

# WORSHIP SERVICE

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent



During Advent, the Church turns its gaze toward the first and second comings of Jesus Christ. This season is an opportunity for Christians to prepare themselves for Christmas through longing and a renewed desire for God's rule in the midst of everyday life. Advent practices of prayer and repentance look back to remember the faithfulness of God revealed through the birth of Jesus, and forward to, "...the blessed hope of His glorious appearing." (Titus 2:13) The story of our redemption starts with waiting and expectation: That's why the church generally refrains from singing Christmas carols during Advent. We dare not rush to greet the Redeemer prematurely until we pause here, in a darkened church, to admit that we do need redemption. Nothing within us can save us. Nothing can save us. We've tried that before. No president, no bomb, no new car, no bottle, no white Christmas can save. No! to all false consolation, we say. No! to the empty, contrived merriment of a terminal world. Our hope must be in someone out there who comes to us. We find our way only because One comes, takes our hand and leads us home

~William Willimon (Christian Century, Jan. 1, 1984)

## GATHERING

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship: (based on Joel 2:1, 15-16)**

*Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand.*

**Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.**

*Gather the people for a solemn meeting; bring together the elders and gather the children.*

**Come, let us worship our God who is coming!**

## Praise

**Songs of Praise:** "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" (#60 vs. 1-4)

"O Shepherd, Hear and Lead Your Flock" (#64 vs. 1-3)

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" (#67 vs. 1-3)

**God's Greeting:**

*As we enter this season of Advent, may the love of God the Father, and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.*

**Amen!**

**Choral Anthem:** *This Child*

# Renewal

## Advent Readings

Hear this call to confession from Joel 2:

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing— grain offerings and drink offerings for you to offer to the Lord your God.

Join me in this prayer from Psalm 80:

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

**Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Amen.**

We light this first candle of hope as we wait for the fulfillment of God’s promises. Hear these words from Luke 1:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

**Hymn of Response:** “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” (#56 vs. 1-2)

# Communion

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Sanctus:** “Holy, Holy, Holy” (#538 vs. 1)

## Institution

## Creed and Lord’s Prayer

## Invitation

**Distribution** (during passing of bread and cup):

“Behold, the Lamb” (#840 vs. 1-3)

**\*Response of Praise:** “Behold, the Lamb” (#840 vs. 4)

## RESPONSE

**Offering:** Midway Shelter

**Offertory:** “*Panis Angelicus*” (Bread of Heaven)

**\*Offering Response:** “*Have We Any Gift Worth Giving?*” (#872 vs. 1)

**Advent Devotionals & Dismissal of Children for Kid’s Connection**

## PROCLAMATION

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 21:1-18 (p. 409)

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: Manasseh: “I Will Put My Name”**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “*Jesus, Name Above All Names*”

## SENDING

**\*Sending & Benediction**

**\*Doxology** “*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*” (#965)

**Postlude**

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\* Please stand if you are able.

Please note: All songs are from the “Lift Up Your Hearts” Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

**Participants:**

**Speaker:** Rev. Mark Hofman

**Advent Readers:** Ron & Sally Postma

**Pianist:** Carrie Dole

**Offertory:** Joan DeWindt and Elena Dodd

