

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
December 8, 2024  
9:30 AM

**Prelude**  
**Welcome**  
**Announcements**  
**Call to Worship**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle:**

Ryan & Jillian Blankespoor Family

**\*Greetings**  
**\*Song** “The First Noel”  
**\*Song** “O Come, Let Us Adore Him”  
**Children’s Message:** Niki Netten  
**Congregational Prayer**  
**Scripture:** Luke 3:1-20

*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” <sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who

warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.” <sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**Message:** “Not Playing Around”

**Prayer**

**\*Song** “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**



Welcome to the First Reformed Church, we are glad to have you worshiping with us. Please join us for coffee & juice in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

**Calendar for the Day:**

9:30 AM Pastor Cliff will lead us in worship.

10:30 AM Program Practice & Catechism

**Serving Today:**

**Music:** Team 2

**Sound:** Bouwman family

**Nursery:** Brian & Kris Vande Hoef

**Lift:** Marv Vonk

**Offering:** Church Ministry Fund

**Prayers & Praises:**

*Linda Hoekstra* continues with physical therapy.

Thank you for the prayers with my knee surgery. Also, thanks to those who messaged, stopped by for a visit or brought food. It was appreciated!  
*Jennifer Taylor and family*

Pastor Cliff will be out of town Dec. 12-16. If you have a need or a concern please contact your calling Elder or the church office at 470-4703.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

December 9: Ralph Bousema  
Dustin Van Beek  
December 10: Ross & Brooke Bousema  
December 11: Dawson Kelderman  
December 12: Dan Taylor  
Colin & Jada Westra  
December 13: Brekyn Van Kekerix  
Kevin Bouwman  
December 14: Kaylee Day

**NEXT WEEK:**

**Monday, December 9:**

3:30 PM Kids' Block & The Block

**Tuesday, December 10:**

3:30 PM Kids' Block & The Block

**Wednesday, December 11:**

6:30 PM AWANA – Christmas Spirit

6:30 PM JAM

7:30 PM CLASS

**Thursday, December 12:**

3:30 PM Kids' Block & The Block

**Sunday, December 15:**

Pastor Greg Alderman will lead us in worship.  
Pastor Greg is part of the leadership of the Alliance of Reformed Churches. (ARC). The kids will present their Christmas Program at 6:30 PM

**Pianist:** Freida Vander Sluis

**Sound:** Taylor family

**Children's Message:** Bobbi Jo Van Kekerix

**Nursery:** Dan & Jen Taylor

**Lift:** Marv Hoogendoorn

**Offering:** Church Ministry Fund

**CHURCH OFFICE**

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**CABLE TELEVISION**

Digital Channel 76.78

DVR Channel 78

Analog Channel 12

Morning Services are broadcast live.

<http://www.rvfrc.org/live-streaming/>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/rockvalleyfrc>

**Online offering:** <https://www.rvfrc.org/give/>

Our **mission** is accepting God's love, growing in the Word and Spirit, serving others.

Accepting...Growing...Serving

Our **vision** is to follow Jesus daily as we love and serve all people.



Accepting...

Growing...

Serving...

**First Reformed Church**  
**Rock Valley, IA**