

**First CRC Fulton**

December 11, 2022

Advent 2022

God With Us - Restored from Babylon

**We Gather in Praise and Worship**

**Prelude:** Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call To Worship**

**God's Greeting**

**Mutual Greeting**

**Worship Through Song:**

Away in a Manger

O Come All Ye Faithful

**Congregational Prayer**

**Advent Reading and Lighting of the Third Candle:**

Breidenbach Family

**Advent Program Scene 3 - God With Us, Restored  
from Babylon**

**Worship in Song:**

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

We Three Kings

## **We Prepare For & Hear God's Word**

### **Ezra 6:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> *On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. <sup>20</sup> The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. <sup>21</sup> So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>22</sup> For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.*

### **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.*

### **Matthew 2:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

<sup>3</sup> *When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:*

<sup>6</sup> “*But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.*”

**Sermon:** God With Us, Restored from Egypt - Pastor Michael  
Prayer

**Celebration of Communion**  
Prayer

**WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING**

Parting Song: Angels We Have Heard on High

**Blessing:** Pastor Michael

**Announcements**

***The beautiful Poinsettias are in Memory of:***

Merle & Carol Bielema from the family

Brad Lown from Bruce & Lori Bielema & family

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family

Angela McGinty from the family

Sid & Myrna Dykstra from Paul & Sheila Thompson

Roger Simon & Jake & Florence Balk from Bonnie Simon

Ken Balk & Stephanie Balk from Audrey Balk & family

Elmer & Alberta Vander Eide from the family

Paul & Wilma Ottens & Janet Mathey from the family

**Kay B** has retired from Church secretary, as of Thursday, December 8, 2023. Marissa W will be interim secretary and can be reached at [FirstCRCFulton@live.com](mailto:FirstCRCFulton@live.com).

**December 11 Congregational Meeting:** The annual congregational meeting will be held **Today** following the worship service. The 2023 Budget will be presented for approval and new Council members will be elected as follows: Elder, one to be elected: Brenda A, Bruce B, and Roger D; Deacon, one to be elected; Jon B and Amy D. Stacy S is the outgoing Elder and the Deacon election is to fill a vacancy. We thank the nominees for their willingness to serve.

**To Fulton First CRC,**

We can't begin to say thanks enough for the outpouring of cards and letters and gifts for Pastor Appreciation month. We feel so blessed to be a part of this congregation and to serve here. You are an incredibly gracious and supporting church. Thank you so much for making myself and our family feel so loved and supported. In Christ, Pastor Michael and Alida

**December Birthdays**

1 Collin B

21 Sheila T

5 Kelly D

27 Paige V

6 Rollie V

28 Matt S

9 Brenda H

30 Stacy S

18 Brenda A

31 Ben S

**Remember in prayer** our members in care facilities and those that are homebound: Dorothy B, Jeanette B, Carroll E, John S, Betty S, Mark S, Albert W

### **Deacons News**

Please place your offerings in the plates located on the back table. 11/27/22

Budget: \$1,925.52

Received: \$1,442.00

short: \$483.52

Building Fund: \$224.00

Offerings Today: General Fund - Benevolence

Offerings Next Sunday: General Fund - Faith Promise

### **Youth Group**

**We will not have Youth Group today, December 11, 2022.** Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 18. We will have pizza and snacks. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange. (\$10-\$15)

We have 6 out of 12 spots reserved for SERVE 2022. Our YG will be going to SERVE in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, July 29 - August 5, 2023. SERVE is a week-long mission trip sponsored by Thereforego Ministries. If you would like to go with us please bring your \$50.00 registration fee to YG this week (make

checks payable to Gateway Youth Group). The cost of SERVE is \$400 per person. You will not have to pay the full price, we ask that families pay 1/3, your home church sponsors 1/3 (I have a letter you can bring to your church council), and Youth Group will pay 1/3 of the cost. This totals \$133.00 for the trip. Once you pay your registration fee your family total will be \$83.00, due in March. There are scholarships available, if needed. If you have any questions please let us know. If you have trouble with the cost, please talk to us. We do not want cost to be a factor in your decision. SERVE is a wonderful experience! See you next Sunday, Rollie, Jeff & Chris

### **Community News**

**Voices of Praise** - Please join us for Majesty! - A Christmas Worship Experience for all ages at Emmanuel Church-202 E. Morris St. Morrison, IL. on December 16 & 18 at 7pm and on December 17 at 3pm.

## Weekly Calendar

|                                   |   |          |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Sunday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> | Sunday Worship  | 9:00 am  |
|                                   | 3rd Sunday in Advent<br>Communion<br>Congregational Meeting | 11:00 am |

### Today

### Next Sunday

|                   | Today      | Next Sunday |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Recorder & Sound  | Paul T     | Joe V       |
| Nursery Attendant | Celia B    | Lynelle B   |
| Snack Provider    | Virginia S | Brenda A    |
| Server            | Virginia S | Carman F    |

Pastor Michael Hooker-Email: [mhooke01@gmail.com](mailto:mhooke01@gmail.com)

Church Email: [FirstCRCFulton@live.com](mailto:FirstCRCFulton@live.com)

Office: 815-589-3790

Website: [www.FultonFirstCRC.com](http://www.FultonFirstCRC.com)

Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church