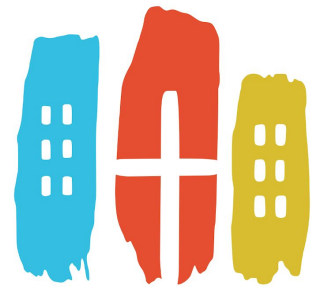


**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 16, 2018**

**Welcome to our worship service at Loop Church!**

**Our Purpose** - As followers of Jesus Christ we bless our neighbors in Chicago and beyond by welcoming the presence and love of God into our lives such that it overflows to those around us. This happens as we engage in spiritual practices, live out our community values, and engage in acts of love and service.



**LOOP CHURCH**

C H I C A G O

## **GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Gathering Song:**      My Soul In Stillness Waits

LUYH 63

## **GOD GREETUS US - WE RESPOND BY GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

**Pastor:**      The Lord be with you.

**People:**      **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**      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.

**People:**      **Amen.**

## **ADVENT READING: CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Leader 1:**      A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**Leader 2:**      The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

**People:**      **Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—the eternal Word made flesh.**

**Leader 1:**      He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**Leader 2:**      What does this mean—that he “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

**People:** That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David's true descendant, like his brothers in every way except for sin.

**Leader 1:** How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit us?

**People:** He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God's sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.

**Leader 2:** Like he did when he anointed Mary with the Holy Spirit to give birth to his only Son, God continues to hold this world with fierce love.

**All:** Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world, pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news: sinners who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God—the firstfruits of a new creation.

**Song of Response:** What Child Is This LUYH 95

## **GOD CALLS US TO RECONCILIATION**

### **Call to Confession and Prayer**

**Song of Assurance:** Comfort, Comfort Now My People LUYH 59

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23 (*Pew Bible 949*)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon:** *4 Things I've Learned in 4 Years as Pastor of Loop Church*

## **WE RESPOND IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER**

### **Thanksgiving for Mark and Charlene's Ministry at Loop**

### **Offering for the General Fund**

*(Our morning offering is an act of worship whereby we as members of this congregation express our gratitude to and reliance on God. Guests and visitors should not feel that participation in this part of the service is obligatory. Anyone may participate electronically at <http://www.loopchurch.org/giving/>.*

*Alternatively, anyone using the ZELLE payment app can donate by sending funds to [lcm@loopchurch.org](mailto:lcm@loopchurch.org).*

**Mission Moment - Welcoming the Stranger**

# Congregational Prayer

## HALLELUJAH! LET US CELEBRATE THE FEAST

### Invitation & Institution

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up to the Lord**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise**

### Words of Invitation

#### Communion

*(The Lord's Supper is an open invitation to all. If you are - or desire to be - a follower of Jesus Christ, come and celebrate with us. Today we will celebrate the sacrament by forming a circle around the communion table and passing the bread and wine to one another with the words, "The Body of Christ, broken for you," and, "The Blood of Christ, shed for you.")*

## GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

**Sending Song:**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

LUYH 56

### Benediction

#### This week's lectionary readings:

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

## Contact Us

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Ministry Coordinator Jim Bosman - [jim@loopchurch.org](mailto:jim@loopchurch.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Interested in Volunteering or Submitting an Announcement?** Talk to Jim Bosman after the service or send him an email at [jim@loopchurch.org](mailto:jim@loopchurch.org)

**Please join Loop after the service as we say farewell to Pastor Mark and Charlene.**

**Plan on it!** Loop Christmas party at home of Mona and Kevin VanKanegan, 727 W Liberty. Bring something (food or drink) to share and be prepared to sing carols. December 22, 7:00 PM.

### Calendar:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tue, Dec 18	<i>Welcoming the Stranger MC</i>		
Thu, Dec 20	Steering Council Meeting	6:30 - 8:30 PM	11 E Adams
Sat. Dec 22	<i>Christmas Party</i>	7:00 PM	Home of Mona & Kevin
Fri, Dec 28	<i>Environmental Issues MC</i>		
Thu, Jan 3	<i>Anti-Racism MC</i>		
Sun, Jan 6	<i>Brunch Sunday</i>	10:00 - 11:30	11 E Adams

### Sunday Schedule:

Date	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 6	Jan 13
<b>Set Up</b>	Peter & Silvia	Kevin & Mona	Tim & Lexi	Kevin & Mona	Jim & Mary
<b>Take Down</b>	Kevin & Mona	Tim & Lexi	Kevin & Mona	Ginny & Debbie	Jim & Mary
<b>Greeter 1</b>	Kevin	Lexi	Silvia	Jim	Joseph
<b>Greeter 2</b>	Mona	Janna	Peter	Mary	Kelley
<b>Refreshments</b>	Farewell	Mary	Kelley	Brunch	Laura & Karim
<b>Nursery</b>	--- /Kayla	--- /Rae	--- /Naomi	-----	--- /Briana
<b>Lead Elder</b>	Claire	Debbie	JB	Kevin	Claire

**Offering Update:** Dec 9: Gen Fund \$4665.00 FYTD: \$54,789.00