

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

January 1, 2012 – Presentation of Jesus

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** – based on Psalm 148

Leader: Praise God! Praise God from the heavens; praise God you angels!

People: *Let everyone praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.*

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon, and all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens and waters above the heavens!

People: *Let everyone praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.*

Leader: Praise God all the earth: sea monsters and all deeps;
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

People: *Let everyone praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.*

Leader: Praise God, kings of the earth and all people; young men and women, old and young together!

People: *Let everyone praise the name of God, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.*

***Hymns:** “Morning has broken” #648 HWB
“Worship the Lord in the beauty” #220 HWB (vv. 1-4)

Gospel reading: Luke 2:22-40

Children's gathering song: “Come and see” #20 HWB

Children's time

Hymn: “The virgin Mary had a baby boy” #202 HWB

Sermon: “Welcome to the family!”

Reception of New Members: Phil & Abra Staffin Wiebe

Dedication of Parents & Children: Phil & Abra Staffin Wiebe and
Cassius Alfred, and Terry & Justin Peterson

Congregational response: #777 HWB

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

***Please stand if you are able**

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Communion

We will gather at the tables at front and back in groups of 10-12 as the ushers guide. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served and then partake together. The bread is gluten free. The cup is grape juice. All who have made a public commitment to follow Christ and share in the life of Christ's body are invited to the table. Children may come to receive a grape and blessing.

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. AMEN

Offering & Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** “I want to walk as a child of the light” #95 STJ

*Benediction

Leader: Lord, now dismiss your servants in peace,

People: for our eyes have seen your salvation,

Leader: which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples—

People: a light for your revelation and glory to all we meet.

All: Amen.

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

10:40 a.m. Fellowship time

There will be no education classes today.

TODAY: Presentation of Jesus

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Nikki Fitch Nafziger & Adam Nafziger

Nursery: Kristen Green & Candace Lauth **Shoveling:** Thaine Dirks

NEXT SUNDAY: Baptism of Jesus (Isaiah 42:1-9; Mark 1:4-11)

Worship leader: Chris Jones

Sermon: Phil Stoltzfus

Song Leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: Sandra Westby

Ushers: Barb Beers, Rhonda Martin

Shoveling: Hermann Weinlick

Nursery: Shelly Hendricks & Tyler Zabriskie

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach (on sabbatical)

Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus

Sabbatical Pastoral Care: Donna Stucky

Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks

Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson

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E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC OFFICE HOURS: January 2-6

Pastoral care (Donna Stucky): Tues 1-3

Ministry Staff: Tues 10-5; Wed 1-5; Thurs 10-5

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

Dec 25: Attendance: 67 Offering: \$3,485

Today, Jan. 1, 2:30 p.m., the **Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)** will hold a **Faith Action Vigil** at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, St. Paul.

Adult ed. in January will be a four-part series organized by the Worship Commission, “**The Heart of Mennonite Worship: Five Vital Rhythms.**”

The **first FMC potluck** of 2012 will be held **on Jan. 8**, after education hour. Please plan to attend and consider bringing two dishes/items to share. **The 2012 potluck schedule has been distributed in mailboxes.** As in previous years, individuals and households have been assigned a Sunday to be part of a potluck team. If you are unable to participate on the Sunday for which you are assigned, please trade with someone. Not all, but most, households have been included. Questions? Contact Alisa Bardo-Martinson.

Church Meetings and Events

The Tuesday text studies are suspended during the pastor’s sabbatical

January 11 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

January 11 – 2011 Annual Reports due

January 12 (date change) – Deacon Com., 9:15 a.m., Nafziger home

January 18 – Worship Commission, 6:30 p.m., church office

January 18 – Missions & Service Commission, 7:00 p.m., chapel

January 20-22 – FMC Women’s Retreat

February 5 – FMC 2012 Annual Meeting

Announcements

Soup Group is an opportunity for our church community to share meals together on a regular basis. A simple meal of soup and bread is provided. Upcoming dates:

- **Monday, Jan. 2, 6 p.m., Joan Kreider’s home**, 2162 Carroll Ave., St. Paul. Please RSVP to Joan by Sunday, Jan. 1.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m., Hendricks’ home**

To host a Soup Group, contact Aryn Baxter.

Directory update: Jennifer Wandersee has changed her email address.

An **updated online church directory** is available in the password-protected “Members” area of the church website, under “Church Directory.” Please contact the church office if there are any corrections or additions to the list. The online directory will be continuously updated. –*Phil Stoltzfus*

A **new online FMC events calendar** is under construction and publicly accessible on the church website, under “Events and News” and “Calendar.” Please contact the church office with upcoming items to add. This calendar will be continuously updated. –*Phil Stoltzfus*

Copies of *Signs of the Times*, the quarterly publication of **Christian Peacemaker Teams**, are available on the back literature shelf, as are copies of **CPT’s new 2012 wall calendar**.

Faith Mennonite **Artisans and Crafters** Council calls all project-heads and-hands together. All crafty or artsy projects welcome, all ages, all skill levels, f/m. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. in the library**. Snacks are on hand. Contact Donna Stucky or Marybeth Luing for info.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2:00-5:00 p.m., workshop at Missio Dei Clare House by San Francisco author Mark Scandrette: “**The Jesus DoJo Workshop: Creating Shared paths for Spiritual Formation & Compassionate Action.**” A copy of Mark’s new book, *Practicing the Way of Jesus*, is included with \$20 registration fee. You can find out more (and register) at: <http://jesusdojomples.eventbrite.com>. –*Mark Van Steenwyk*

Thank you! As I begin my sabbatical leave I am aware of the extra work this entails for many of you. I am deeply grateful for the support of the congregation and for the commitment on your part which makes this possible. As you transition into the New Year, and a new church year, I wish you God’s rich blessings. I will carry you in prayer with much thanksgiving. – *Joetta Schlabach*

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God within us,
For the word of God among us,

All: *Thanks be to God.*