

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

January 3, 2010 ~ Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12)

L: The darkness has ended. The Lord is here. Arise, shine, your light has come!

P: We have a story to tell the nations. Let us lift up our eyes and look around us; let us come, one and all, to worship our Lord.

L: Almighty and eternal God, Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for your birth, for showing us the way back to God.

All: May all the world receive her glorious king with joy. Amen

*Prayer

*Hymn: "The virgin Mary had a baby boy" #202 HWB

Candle lighting

Hymn: "Bright and glorious is the sky" #219 (vv 1, 2, 4, 5)

Children's gathering hymn: "Come light of the world"

Children's time: Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn: "We are walking in the light of God - Siyahamba"

Text of hope: Isaiah 60:1-6

Sermon: "Finding our way to the Light"

Litany of response - based on Psalm 25 (insert)

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. During this time people are also invited to light a candle on the front table.

Communion Hymn: "I want to walk as a child of the light" #95 STJ

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

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

Give us today our daily bread. *(cont. next page)*

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 and Offertory

Ave Maria

Madeline Westby, soloist

Announcements *(please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader)*

Introduction of Guests

*Sending Hymn: "Brightest and best" (insert; vv 1, 3, 4)

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

- Fellowship time – 10:45-11:10 a.m. Basement fellowship hall

- Children's singing – 11 a.m. Education wing chapel

- Christian education – 11:15-noon The adults will meet in the basement fellowship hall for an extended fellowship time, facilitated by deacons Kami Blackwell Kinney and Beth Richardson

TODAY: Arise! Shine! Reveal the mystery!

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Scripture Reader: Matthew Kinney

Song Leader: Donna Stucky

Piano: Sandra Westby

Nursery Volunteers: Gregg Richardson & Barbara Beers

Fellowship: Kami Blackwell Kinney & Beth Richardson

NEXT SUNDAY: The baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15-17; 21-22)

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Hermann Weinlick

Song Leader: Karen Wiebe

Piano: Melissa Falb

Nursery Volunteers: Matthew Hendricks & Cindy Bjork

Fellowship: Volunteers Needed

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.

Dec 27: Attendance: 57

Offering: \$5,682 \$1,000 designated

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Cleta Roth Gingerich
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: January 4-8

Pastor: Joetta will be out of town this week. On Friday evening and Saturday she will attend the Central Plains Conference Leadership Seminar in Des Moines, IA. Please contact a deacon in case of an emergency and for pastoral care needs while she is away.

Office Assistant: Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:
faithmc@faithmennonite.org

January Adult Education

Planned by the Deacon's Commission

January 10 – Faith Formation in the Family. Studies show that the home was the primary place of faith development for most people who remain actively involved in a faith community as an adult. We'll hear from various folks and share ideas about how we can nurture faith in our home settings across the lifespan.

January 17 – Making our wishes known-part 2 As a follow up to the Mennonite Mutual Aid presentation in November, two people will share stories of the importance of sharing our end-of-life plans with others, and we will spend time filling out advance directives for healthcare (*Five Wishes*) and funeral planning forms.

January 24 – World Fellowship Sunday. Patricia Mack will share about her experience at Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay.

January 31 – Navigating the Healing of Trauma with STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) Donna Minter will give a presentation that she is preparing for the Augsburg College Nobel Peace Prize Forum in March

Church Meetings and Events

January 5 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11)

Trotter's, corner of Cleveland & Marshall, SP

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

January 12 – Missions & Service Commission, 4 p.m., FMC

January 13 – Annual Reports are due

January 20 – Deacon's Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

January 24 – World Fellowship Sunday – international-themed potluck

February 7 – Annual Congregational Meeting

February 20 – Council & Commissions Retreat, 9-noon, FMC

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L: 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.

Litany of response (based on Psalm 25)

- L: Lord, on this celebration of Epiphany, we rejoice in your presence with us and long for your return. We pray with the Psalmist:
P: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.
L: In the midst of uncertainty and fear, we pray:
P: do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
L: We confess that we have tried many paths and that wandering has made us weary. Sometimes the stars we follow are made by human hands. Forgive us.
P: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths. Like Magi, show us how to find the Savior.
L: We come looking for your grace, not because we deserve it, but because of your merciful love for all people. We pray:
P: May your kingdom come, O Lord!

Announcements

A memorial service for Karen Peterson's father, John Linn, will be held on Saturday, January 16 at the Methven-Taylor Funeral Home, 831 40th Ave NE (just west of Central Avenue), Columbia Heights. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. and the service at 3 p.m. The family invites people who knew John to come prepared to share a memory during the service. Faith Mennonite Church will provide refreshments; more details to follow.

Please pray for Katie Hochstedler, Scott Neal, Phil Stoltzfus and Pastor Joetta as they participate in the **Central Plains Conference Leadership Seminar** this Friday evening and Saturday in Des Moines, IA (more information in January newsletter).

Mission Network prayer request — Pray that Mennonite Mission Network personnel may begin this year with renewed openness to the movement of Jesus' spirit that brings healing and hope to the world.

Looking ahead to the Annual Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held **February 7**. Commission chairs are responsible to submit **annual reports by January 13**. **A half-day retreat for Council and all Commission members is planned for Saturday, Feb. 20** (this will replace the February church council meeting).

What are you doing to live more simply and sustainably? Share your practical suggestions on how to care for the earth and live more sustainably through *Simply Sustainable*, a new book coming from Mennonite Publishing Network. Go to www.simply-sustainable.org to learn more and to make a submission.