

## FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

January 4, 2008 ~ Epiphany

*Restore us, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved*

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Lighting of the God candle

#### \*Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**P: It's been dark for so long, the kind of darkness you can feel in your bones.**

L: But now the light has come.

**P: God's glorious light is rising over our heads.**

L: Open your eyes and let them adjust to this new reality. God is illuminating the landscape, and now we begin to see God's goodness.

**P: The light is moving out across boundaries and barriers, filling the whole earth.**

**ALL: The light of Christ is a light to all peoples. We rejoice in God's justice and mercy made visible among us.**

#### \*Hymns: "Brightest and best" (insert)

"Christ, whose glory fills the skies" #216 HWB

### Prayer of Confession

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

**Side 1: For so long we have seen people crying out to God for justice.**

**Side 2: For so long we have seen people searching for God's light.**

L: And now we see God's glorious light rising over our heads, illuminating the earth.

**ALL: Restore us, O God, let your face shine through us to all nations.**

**Song:** "Gloria" #204 HWB

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Children's Gathering Hymn:** "O come, all ye faithful" #212 HWB (v. 1)

**Children's Time:** Drawn to the light ~ Ry & Marcia Siggelkow

**Hymn:** "This little light of mine" #401 HWB

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon:** "Can shy, humble people be a light to the nations?"

**Hymn:** "Longing for light" #54 STJ

### Congregational Sharing

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book    STJ: Sing the Journey

*\*Please stand if you are able*

### 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.

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

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

### Introduction of Guests

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

**\*Benediction**

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

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### Community Time

- Fellowship time - 10:45-11:15 a.m.

- Children's music – 11 a.m., Room 201, education wing

- Education for all ages – 11:15-noon

*Today we will begin a 3-week adult education series on Worship:*

Jan 4: The role of singing in Mennonite worship ~ sanctuary

Jan 11: The many pieces of worship

Jan 18: Communion practices in Mennonite (and other) traditions

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**TODAY:** The welcoming face of God

**Sermon:** Michael Bischoff      **Worship leader:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Jane Ramseyer Miller      **Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Readers:** Joan Kreider, Bob Mack, Leslie Minkler, Wendy Bruner,

Matthew Kinney      **Cello:** Elena Kuenning

**Nursery volunteers:** Volunteers Needed

**Fellowship:** Tom Johnson

*We welcome Jane Ramseyer Miller of St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship and artistic director of One Voice Mixed Choir, to lead our singing and our adult education session today.*

**NEXT SUNDAY:** The reconciling work of the Word made Flesh / Communion

**Worship leader:** Arlene Holdeman      **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Gregg Richardson      **Piano:** Adam Nafziger

**Nursery volunteers:** Thaine Dirks and Two Volunteers Needed

**Fellowship:** Volunteers Needed

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*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.*

## Faith Mennonite Church

**Pastor: Joetta Schlabach**

**Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff**

**Deacons: Cleta Roth Gingerich, Candace Lauth, Mike Okerstrom  
Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick**

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### **FMC OFFICE HOURS: January 5-9**

**Pastor:** Mon 10-3; Wed & Thurs 9-4; Fri 9-1

Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Mon and Wed from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday is a study day.

**Michael Bischoff:** Thursday 9-noon

**Office Assistant:** Wednesday & Friday 8:30-1:30

*Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:*  
[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org)

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**December 28:** Attendance: 83 Offering: \$5847

### **Church Meetings and Events**

January 6 – Lectionary Discussion (1 Sam 3:1-10; Ps 139; 1 Cor 6:12-20)

8:30 a.m., Trotter's, corner of Marshall & Cleveland, St. Paul

January 8 – Dialog on race with Rev. Agnew, Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m. (see announcement for location)

January 11 – FMC Area Group gatherings

January 12 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

January 14 – Annual Reports due

January 17 – Worship Commission, 9 a.m., Schlabach's

January 19 – MLK youth work day at FMC

January 21 – Deacon Commission, 3 p.m., Richardson's

February 1 – Parent/Child Dedication Sunday

February 8 – Church Membership and Annual Meeting Sunday

## Announcements continued

**February 13-14** —“**Common Root 2009: Creating our Future in the Shadow of Empire**” at FMC, being organized by Missio Dei. This consultation will explore ways of creatively embracing the in-breaking Kingdom of God in the shadow of Empire. The organizers want to foster creative resistance as we seek community practices that bring shalom to a broken world.

Presenters include Greg Boyd (author of *Myth of a Christian Nation*, respected theologian, and pastor at Woodland Hills), Tom and Christine Sine (directors of the Mustard Seed Associates and internationally respected speakers on spirituality, community, and grassroots church movements), Carol Rose (pastor, poet, and co-director of Christian Peacemaker Teams), and Jin Kim (pastor of Church of All Nations, a Twin Cities multi-ethnic church). In addition to key note presentations there will be workshops on New Monasticism, the Catholic Worker Movement, sustainable living, urban church planting, community-based peacemaking, communal spirituality, and much more.

The consultation will also feature a special planter’s track for those interested in starting new communities. Jeff Wright, president of Shalom Ministries: [www.urban-anabaptist.org/sm/staff.php](http://www.urban-anabaptist.org/sm/staff.php), will lead these sessions.

Registration for the consultation is by donation, with a suggested minimum of \$50. For more information and to register for the consultation visit:

[www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http://thecommonroot.eventbrite.com](http://www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http://thecommonroot.eventbrite.com)

## 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.

## 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,

(continued on next page)

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.

L: For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Announcements

**As you leave church today, you are welcome to take a poinsettia** home or to someone you think would enjoy it as a gift. Our Christmas poinsettias were a gift of Carol Stoltfus, Plants by Design, of St. Paul.

**Thank you to Dick Westby** for delivering our donations of 50 lbs. of groceries + mittens & hats to Community Emergency Service. *Donations of groceries are regularly collected on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

**Volunteers are needed** for weekend snow shoveling, nursery care and fellowship time refreshments. Please sign-up on the sheets at the back of the sanctuary.

**New address for the Ry and Marcia Siggelkow family:** 1116 Ashland Ave. #3, St. Paul, MN 55104

**Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network** Join Mennonite Mission Network workers Anna and Joe Sawatzky in Mthatha, South Africa, in praise to God for new vitality in the Bethany Bible School program. Pray for continued growth for students and vision for the committee leading the program.

**Area group gatherings – January 11.** Information is in your mailbox for the next quarterly area group gatherings. These are informal times intended to help you get better acquainted with other FMC folks who live in your general geographic area. If you don't find yourself in a group, please contact the deacon for the group you think you belong in and plan to attend.

### Getting to know Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

- **Race Forum— Jan. 8:** Join a community dialogue about race, hosted by Bethesda Baptist Church. The forum is held at the Elliot Park Fieldhouse (1000 14th St. E, Minneapolis). A light supper will be provided at 6:30 pm and the discussion will be from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Rev. Agnew, the pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church has invited members of Faith Mennonite to join this forum, as a part of our congregation getting to know members of their congregation.
- **Worship at Bethesda Baptist Church:** A group from Faith Mennonite will be participating in worship at **Bethesda Baptist Church on January 18th** at 11:30 am. Please join us! The church is at 1118 S 8th St, on the east side of downtown Minneapolis. For more information about either event with Bethesda Church, contact Michael Bischoff at 612-521-1889.

**MLK—Spirit of Service Day: January 19th, 2009— FMC will be hosting a group of 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from Andy Martinson's school, as well as youth from our church.** He needs a meal that day at lunch. If anyone would like to contribute to the lunch (and certainly join them for the meal!), please e-mail or call him.  
ajmart@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us (651) 426-8001

**On January 25th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, some of us from FMC will lead a discussion at a Community of St. Martin Adult Education session** about how FMC and CSM might work together on some of the new community projects we are beginning, and some things they have already started. If you are interested, please join us for that conversation. *Michael Bischoff*