

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

November 30, 2008 ~ First Sunday of Advent

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 64; Psalm 80 and Mark 13)

L: People of God, look around you. The time is ripe for God's coming.

P: The earth is silent, the darkness is tangible, our world is in upheaval, and God often seems hidden.

L: People of God, stay alert. The season of God's coming has arrived.

P: How will God be revealed? Will it be like a fire, an earthquake, or a knock at the door?

L: People of God, keep watch. God comes in places and at times we least expect.

P: Without God's presence, we wither and die. We are blown away like a leaf in the wind.

ALL: Restore us, O God; let us your face shine, that we may be saved.

*Hymn: "O come, o come, Immanuel" #172 HWB (v. 1,3,5,6)

Prayer of Confession

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

Side 1: In some faces we see overwhelming despair, a weariness with life in this world.

Side 2: In our own faces we see shadows of uncertainty, doubt, and fear.

L: We wait with eager yearning for the promise of God's coming.

ALL: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Song: "Save us, O Lord"

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Children's Time: "The face of God"

Hymn: "Lord, you sometimes speak" #594 HWB

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sermon: "Waiting in darkness"

Hymn: "Joyful is the dark" #233 HWB (v. 1-3)

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

Prayers of concerns

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

Prayers of praise and thanksgiving

Sung response: "Our darkness" #101 STJ

Offering and Offertory

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

Introduction of Guests

*Sending hymn: "Longing for light" #54 STJ (v. 1,2,5)

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

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

- There will be no Christian education today. Classes resume next Sunday.

TODAY: The hidden face of God

Worship leader: Ry Siggelkow **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus **Organ:** David Mayou

Reader: Matthew Blackwell Kinney

Nursery volunteers: Minke Sundseth & Glenn Geissing

Fellowship: Schlabachs

NEXT SUNDAY:

Worship leader: Ry Siggelkow **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson **Piano:** Cathy Smetana

Nursery volunteers: Kami Blackwell Kinney & Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Volunteers needed

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Michael Bischoff

Deacons: Cleta Roth Gingerich, Candace Lutt, Mike Okerstrom

Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 3-7

Pastor: Mon 1-5; Wed 8:30-3; Thurs 9-5; Friday 9-noon. 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 a.m. - noon

Office Assistant: Dan Leisen will be out of the office through December 5. Thank you to Kami Blackwell Kinney, Susan Weinlick, and Sandra Westby who are volunteering help during this time.

Email all bulletin items before Thursday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

A parent resource room is directly below the sanctuary, between the men's and women's washrooms. 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.

Advent Visuals Kristen Borotrager and Cleta Roth Gingerich have created the visual elements to help reflect the Advent theme "Let Your Face Shine." Each Sunday we will begin our service by lighting the "God" candle at the front of the sanctuary. As Advent progresses, more lights, sparkling beads, mirrors, candles and shining objects will reflect light, portraying God's hiddenness and God's revelation.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay,
and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ
has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any
spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will
also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Advent Choir: Neil Okerlund is assembling a mixed ensemble to sing on Dec. 14 & 21. The first of two practices will be Dec. 7 at noon. *Please let Neil know if you'd like to sing.*

Christmas Events at FMC:

- December 7 – Christmas caroling at Gaultier Place & Bethel Care Centers (5:15 p.m.), followed by chili and the annual carol sing at Joan Kreider's house (7 p.m.)
- December 14 at 4:45 p.m. Christmas Program & Cookie Social at FMC

Jennifer Wandersee plays with Seward Concert Band in their Holiday Concert, Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. South High School Auditorium, 3131 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis. Suggested donations: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 children/students (2 admissions for a single donation with MPR membership).

Young adults: Central Plains Mennonite Conference will pay the registration fee, lodging, meals and travel expenses for one young person from our conference to attend Mennonite World Conference and the Global Youth Summit, July 10-19, 2009. We invite active participants of Central Plains congregations between the age of 18-27 (as of July 1, 2009) to apply. Contact Rosie Epp at 605-357-9125 or smmc@juno.com for application information. Applications are due December 30, 2008.

Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network: Pray that MMN workers Julie and Phil Bender will experience God's blessing and encouragement as they seek ways to effectively build relationships with students while teaching English in increasingly large classroom settings at Chongqing Medical University. The Benders serve with Mennonite Partners in China.

Church Meetings and Events

- December 2 – Lectionary Discussion (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28), 8:30 a.m. at Trotter's Cafe
- December 2 – Christian Education Commission, 7 p.m., FMC
- December 7 – Christmas Caroling at nursing homes (5:15) & carol sing at Joan Krieder's (7 p.m.)
- December 8 – Missions & Service Commission, 3 p.m., FMC
- December 8 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC
- December 14 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:45 p.m. FMC
- January 11 – FMC Neighborhood gatherings
- February 8 – Annual Meeting
- February 14-16 – Men's Retreat