

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
December 4, 2011 – Second Sunday of Advent  
“Awesome deeds we do not expect”

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Lift up your heads to hear tender words of forgiveness.

**People: We have long waited for God’s liberation.**

Leader: Prepare a way in the wilderness.

**People: We will make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Leader: Plow the landscape and prepare the mountains.

**People: We will level the rough places to make ready for God’s glory.**

**\*Hymns:** “Comfort, comfort” #176 HWB

“O come, O come, Immanuel” #172 HWB (vv. 1, 3, 5, 6)

**Old Testament reading:** Mark 1:1-8

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

**Children’s time:** Shelly Hendricks

**Song:** “Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming” #211 HWB (v. 1)

**Old Testament reading:** Psalm 85 ~ movement by Joy & Kristi Zabriskie

**Sung response:** “Dona nobis pacem Domine” #294 HWB

**Silent Reflection & Story**

**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.*

**Communion Hymn:** “Lord, you sometimes speak” #594 HWB

**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**

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

*\*Please stand if you are able*

**Announcements** (please give in writing to worship leader)

**Introduction of guests**

**\*Sending hymn:** “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” #178 HWB

**\*Benediction**

Leader: Go into the world, knowing God’s peace.

**People: We pass on the peace we have received.**

Leader: Go into the world, carrying God’s grace.

**People: We share the grace we have been given.**

Leader: Go into the world, awaiting God’s justice.

**People: We follow the path of God’s justice.**

**\*Passing the Peace / Postlude**

**Community Time**

**10:40 a.m.** Fellowship time

**11:00 a.m.** Faith Formation classes for all ages. Visitors are welcome to join any class. Adult options:

- In the beginning...creativity – Library (note change)
- Trauma healing – Basement fellowship hall
- Anabaptist/Mennonite Faith & Practice – Pastor’s study

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**TODAY:** Advent 2: Changing the Landscape / Communion

**Worship leader:** Marybeth Luing

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Anna Gambucci

**Organ:** Jim Kuebelbeck

**Violin:** Phil Stoltzfus

**Ushers:** Nikki Nafziger & Cori Skogerboe

**Nursery:** Susan Weinlick & Annette Semanchin-Jones

**Fellowship:** Alisa Bardo-Martinson & Andy Martinson

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Advent 3: Transforming our Sorrow (Is 61:1-4, 8-11)

**Worship leader:** Shawn Helmeke

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Phil Stoltzfus

**Piano:** Melissa Falb

**Usher:** Rhonda Martin

**Nursery:** Cori Skogerboe & Arlene Geissinger

**Fellowship:** Orv & Cleta Roth Gingerich **Shoveling:** Okerstroms

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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.*

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**Nov 27:**

**Attendance:** 59

**Offering:** \$1219

(Remaining budgeted needs in 2011: approx. \$31,000)

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**Faith Mennonite Church**  
**Pastor: Joetta Schlabach**  
**Office & Ministry Support: Phil Stoltzfus**  
**Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Shelly Hendricks**  
**Donna Minter, Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson**

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***FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 5-9***

**Pastor:** Mon 1-5; Wed 9-2:30; Thurs 9-11, 3-5. Tuesday is a study day.

**Office & Ministry Support:** Mon 8-1; Wed, 1:30-5:00; Thurs 9:45-5

**Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:**

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

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**Words as we find and light the Advent candles**

Finders: We are awake and watching. . . .

We see a flicker of light and want to share it!

**All: *Thanks be to God for giving us light!***

***Let us keep watch and not quench the Spirit.***

Finders: We waited. We watched. We thought we knew why. . . .

Yet we are surprised by God's trust: Who else would risk sending Jesus into this uncertain world, not as a military commander or a king, but as a newborn baby?

**All: *We are surprised by God's tenderness: Who else would welcome open-armed all people, to join in the same body? Thanks, thanks be to God!***

**Church Meetings and Events**

**Ongoing Tuesdays** – Sunday Text Study, 8:30 a.m., Trotter's Café, SP

**December 6** – Worship Commission, 6:30 p.m.

**December 10** – Birthday Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Schlabach's

**December 11** – Christmas Carol Sing-along, 7 p.m., Kreider's

**December 13** – Deacon/New Members Sharing, 7 p.m. Donna Minter home

**December 14** – Church Council, 7 p.m., Chapel

**December 18** – Deacon/New Members Sharing, 8 a.m. Hendricks home

**December 18** – Christmas program and cookie social, 4:30 p.m.

**December 28** – January newsletter deadline, noon to Gregg Richardson

**January 11** – 2011 Annual Reports due

**February 5** – 2012 Annual Meeting

### Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight”,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

### Psalm 85

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation towards us.

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

### Questions for Reflection on Psalm 85

85:1-3 Recall a time when you experienced forgiveness. How did it change the landscape of your life?

85:4-7 What circumstances in our world, or in your life, must rouse God's indignation today?

85:10 What does the world look like when steadfast love (mercy) and faithfulness (truth) meet? When righteousness (justice) and peace (shalom) kiss?

85:12 How are you experiencing the goodness and abundance of God?

## Announcements

**Today, 2:30 pm, Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) Faith Action Vigil**, “Waiting with hope, light in the darkness, exile.” Led by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Mpls). Join us at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove St., SP.

Donna Stucky and Marybeth Luing will host **Craft Night on Friday, Dec. 9**, 7 p.m. Come bring your projects to the church library and enjoy a time of conversation and crafting. Light snacks provided. Everyone welcome, all ages. Talk to Donna Stucky for more information.

**December Birthday Brunch, Saturday, Dec. 10** If you or a family member has a birthday in December, pastor Joetta invites you to her home, 248 Aurora Ave., St. Paul for brunch from 9:30-11 a.m. This invitation is for the whole family and significant others, not just the birthday person. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area or email Joetta.

A **mixed voice choir will sing for worship on Dec. 18th**. We will be singing, “People Look East.” The arrangement calls for piano, drum and violin. All are invited, even if you don’t consider yourself a good music reader. We will have **one rehearsal, during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 11th**, plus a brief rehearsal just before church on the 18th. This is a great opportunity for those of you who want to sing in a choir but find yourself holding back. – *Neil Okerlund*

You are invited to a festive **Christmas Carol Sing-along, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.** at Joan Kreider’s. More details to follow. Contact Joan with questions.

**For anyone who wishes to receive a subscription**, FMC provides *one* Mennonite publication for members or regular attenders. You can choose from either the monthly denominational magazine *The Mennonite*, or the *Mennonite Weekly Review*. We are currently **renewing our group subscriptions to *The Mennonite***. Anyone who doesn’t already have another subscription and would like to receive this monthly magazine may **sign up by Dec. 11** on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or by emailing the office at [faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org). **Shared copies of publications** are located on the magazine rack. Anyone may borrow copies as needed.

Several people will be received into **membership in our congregation on Sunday, December 18**. If there are others who would like to consider membership at this time, please contact pastor Joetta or one of the deacons.

**The next Soup Group** is scheduled for **Tuesday, Dec. 13** at the Richardson home and will be hosted by Marybeth Luing. A simple meal of soup and bread is shared. Please RSVP to Marybeth.

All are welcome at an **Advent Evening Prayer Series at Sabbath House**, a time of seasonal readings, music, and quiet during the Mondays of Advent. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 7-8:00 p.m., 3228 Portland Ave. S, Mpls. For more information, call: 612-822-2623.

Parents, you can bring faith into focus during the holidays by **observing Advent at home**. Find a **free devotional guide online** at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/Home). *Surprised by Awesome Deeds* has daily Bible readings, prayers and activities for every week through January 8. Also, watch for the December issue of *Scattered Seeds* for practical ways to nurture faith at home. –*Central Plains Conference*

The following **Advent resource is recommended by Candace Lutt's cousin** Heidi Siemens-Rhodes in a Caring Bridge post this week. It contains lovely visuals and reflections: <http://adventdoor.com/>.

**Grateful thanks for FMC care package:** *“Thank you all so much for the kind words and awesome package that I received just in time for Thanksgiving! It is so wonderful to know that I have all of your support all the way out here. I wish I could be home to thank you in person over Thanksgiving, but Christmas will come soon enough! Hope you are all well, sending my love from rainy Portland! Love, Greta Kreider Carlson”*

Joan Kreider shares a link to Madeline's latest project: **a fair trade holiday gift guide**. Download the guide at the following link (note Madeline's letter on page 3): [www.fairtradefederation.org](http://www.fairtradefederation.org)

**Mennonite Central Committee Christmas Giving**. This Christmas, begin a new tradition. Share the joy with others around the world by selecting a gift from MCC. Simple gifts make a big difference. The gift of **education** provides a brighter future for children and communities. The gift of **friendship** helps MCC reach out to newcomers, showing God's love for all. The gift of **peace** helps people build understanding and harmony where they live. Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. *See MCC flier in mailboxes.*