

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
December 6, 2009 Second Sunday of Advent
“Bursting In and Breaking Out”

*During Advent we will **begin our worship in silence** without prelude music.
We invite you to enter quietly.*

Lighting of the God Candle

Voice of the prophet: Malachi 3:1-4

Welcome

***Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

L: We live in troubled times, waiting for God’s burst of light into our dark world. Get ready! God calls us to prepare the way.

P: **As we prepare, we acknowledge that we still live in the darkness of discontent.**

Left: We ask: Who can endure the day of his coming?

Right: And who can stand when he appears?

L: May every valley be filled and every mountain and hill be made low.

All: *Let us worship the God whose fire refines our lives and makes us holy through and through. The one who calls us is faithful and will do it.*

***Hymn:** “Comfort, comfort, O my people” #176 HWB

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song: “I will trust in you” ~ Ensemble

Keynote text: Luke 3:1-6

Children’s gathering hymn: “Come light of the world”

Children’s time: “A refiner’s fire” ~ Brent Lehman

Hymn: “Hark! The glad sound!” #184 HWB

Text of hope: Philippians 1:3-11

Sermon: “Who can endure and who can stand?”

Litany of Response and Confession (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.

Hymn: “Let all mortal flesh keep silence” #463 HWB

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

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.

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:** “My soul proclaims with wonder” #181 HWB (vv 1-3)

***Benediction** (Philippians 1:9-11)

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- **Fellowship time –10:45-11:10 a.m.**

- **Children’s Music– 11 a.m.**, Room 201, education wing

- **Christian Education – 11:15-noon**

Adult sessions: -Money and Faith (Chapel)

-The Politics of Jesus (Library)

-Advent Choir rehearsal, noon-12:30, sanctuary

TODAY: Advent 2: Get ready! God comes as a refining fire!

Worship Leader: Annette Semanchin-Jones **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Reader: Matthew Kinney, Leslie Minkler

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Piano: Adam Nafziger

Nursery volunteers: Gerald Schlabach & Laurie Kaufman

Fellowship: Joan Kreider

NEXT SUNDAY: Rejoice! God comes in mercy to turn us around

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Bob Brown

Song leader: Donna Stucky

Piano: Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Eric Kasper and Gregg Richardson

Fellowship: Marcia & Ry Siggelkow

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.

Our Advent worship theme is “Bursting In and Breaking Out.” A **family devotional** was created by Elsie Rempel of MC Canada that follows this same theme. Download it for free at the Central Plains web site:

www.centralplainsmc.org. Also take a moment to check out a display of **Advent/Christmas resources in our FMC library**, arranged by **Cynthia Miller** in the fellowship area.

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: December 7-11

Pastor: Wed 8:30-11 a.m., Thurs 8:30-10 & 4-5:30; Fri 9-3. Tuesday is a study day. Joetta is open to receiving calls at home on Monday and Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m.

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

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

November 29: Attendance: 85 Offering: \$2,882

Carol Sing-along, tonight at 7 p.m. at Joan Kreider's, 2162 Carroll Avenue, St. Paul, 651-645-2660. Come sing favorite carols!

Seeking apartment to rent in Seward/Prospect Park/U of M area. If you know of an apartment, please contact Sean Sueker 612-718-5270.

Church Meetings and Events

December 8– Lectionary Discussion Group (Luke 3:7-18; Phil 4:4-7)

Trotter's, corner of Cleveland & Marshall, SP

December 13 – Holiday Baking Class, noon, FMC kitchen

December 13 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:45 p.m., FMC

December 14 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

December 16 – Deacons, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, 6:30 p.m.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. (over)

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

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 and confession

(based on Malachi 3:1-4 & Philippians 1:6-8)

L: Lord in this time of Advent, we long for your coming. We rejoice that you send messengers to prepare the way and announce the light of peace. Yet we are afraid of your judgment. Who can endure the day of your coming and who can stand when God's messenger appears?

P: Purify us, Lord. Clean out our souls and get rid of all that blocks our relationship with you. Help us to follow your ways, to love justice and pursue peace.

Reader 1: We confess that we have tried many paths and that our wandering has made us weary. We have turned away from your ways.

P: Guide us with your grace.

Reader 2: Lord, in your loving kindness, draw near and finish the good work that you have started in us.

Readers 1 & 2: May our word, our work, and our worship be acceptable to you.

P: Thank you for your tender mercy toward us. Amen.

Announcements

Prayer, meditation & discussion before worship, Sundays, 9-9:30 a.m. in the chapel. Beginning in Advent, Rich Deming has offered to host a time of prayer, silent meditation, and bible reading, followed with time for discussion. All are welcome. Meet in the education wing chapel. For more information contact Rich at 612-722-7625.

Thank you to Arlene Geissinger for preparing the Advent visual elements.

Announcements

Advent Choir: We are going to sing on Dec. 13th and the 20th.

We will have 3 30-minute rehearsals. Everyone is welcome!

Today: 12-12:30pm

December 13th 9:00-9:30am (sing in worship service)

December 20th 9:00-9:30am (sing in worship service)

You are welcome to sing for one of the services if your schedule doesn't allow you to be at both. I will introduce both pieces today. If you are unable to rehearse on that day, ask me for copies so that you can look them over during the week before performing. — Neil Okerlund

FMC is hosting a kids gift drive for The Aliveness Project! This Minneapolis-based organization provides services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Minnesota. This is a great opportunity for kids to be involved in caring for others and learning about sharing what we have with others. Check out the organization at <http://www.aliveness.org>. We are collecting unwrapped toys, clothes, hats, gloves, teen gifts like hooded sweatshirts and Best Buy or Target gift cards during children's time **today and Dec. 13th**. Questions? Contact Kristin Green, 612-721-8786.

Thinking about Holiday baking? Want to join others in making and baking holiday treats? On Sunday **December 13th**, beginning at noon, there will be a class/gathering on making holiday treats for yourself or as gifts for others, in the FMC kitchen. We will make and bake one variety of peppernuts, a traditional Mennonite cookie and one variety of quick bread. You'll be able to take some baked goods with you as well as recipes for future use at home! Please RSVP to Rachel Hoskins, 952-250-5188 or rhoskins488@gmail.com so I know how much of everything to have.

We are looking for nursery volunteers for Dec. 20 and Dec 27th. If you know you will be in town and are willing to help out, please contact Brooke Derrickson or the church office. The Winter Nursery Volunteer schedule has been created. Copies are in mailboxes of those who have been scheduled. Thank you so much to all of you for supporting our young families and children. I think I can speak for all the parents by saying how much we appreciate the time to listen and reflect in church, knowing our children are being well tended to. — Brooke Derrickson

TCMCC Board Members needed Lots of changes are planned for the 2010 MCC Relief Sale. Your help is needed to shape what will happen, specifically by serving on the board. More details and the structure for the next year's board and will be discussed at the January 25th board meeting. There are also non-board ways to get involved throughout the year. Please contact Thaine Dirks at 612-850-8419 or via email at lapha002@umn.edu to find out more.