

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2008 ~ Third 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 61 and Psalm 126)

L: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

P: You, me, us. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news.

L: We bring good news to the oppressed and heartbroken.

P: We bring good news to ruined cities and scarred countrysides.

L: We bring good news to the weak and poor.

P: We bring good news to those who have plenty and yet are empty.

L: Let the Spirit of the Lord be upon us so seeds of tears can grow into harvests of joy.

ALL: Let the Spirit of our God be upon us to restore the face of the earth.

***Hymns:** “Hark! The glad sound!” HWB #184

Prayer of Confession

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

Side 1: In some faces we see the weary burden of homelessness as people wait for cities to be rebuilt.

Side 2: In our own faces we see loneliness and emptiness.

L: We await the restoration of all creation.

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

Song: “Save us, O Lord”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

Children’s Gathering Hymn: “O come, all ye faithful” #212 HWB (v. 1)

Children’s Time: Putting the pieces back together – Richard Westby

Hymn: “Rain Down” STJ #49

New Testament Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: “Learning to live out of control: awaiting the unexpected gift of God”

Hymn: “Come, gracious Spirit” #303 HWB

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

Sung response: “Our darkness” #101 STJ

Prayers of concern

Sung response: “Our darkness” #101 STJ

Prayers of praise and thanksgiving

Sung response: “Our darkness” #101 STJ

Offering and Offertory “Ríu Ríu Chíu” ~ Advent Choir, Neil Okerlund

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

Introduction of Guests

***Sending hymn:** “You shall go out with joy” HWB #427

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

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

- Children’s music – 11 a.m., sanctuary

- Education for all ages – 11:15-noon

Adult classes

*Politics & Spirituality – Chapel, education wing

*The Bible & Feminism – library

Children and others involved in the evening Christmas program will rehearse in the sanctuary beginning at 11:15 a.m.

TODAY: The restoring face of God

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

Song leader: Adam Nafziger **Piano:** Karen Zeug

Readers: Bob Mack and Joan Kreider

Nursery volunteers: Jenny Wandersee and Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

NEXT SUNDAY: The indwelling face of God

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg **Piano:** Melissa Falb

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers needed

Fellowship: Volunteers needed

Used with permission.

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

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: December 15-19

Pastor: Mon 10-4; Wed 9-4; Thurs 10-4, Fri 8:30-12:30

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: Wednesday and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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.

December 7: Attendance: 104 Offering: \$5,481

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
 to bind up the broken-hearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and release to the prisoners;
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
 they shall raise up the former devastations;
 they shall repair the ruined cities,
 the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
 and their offspring among the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge
 that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in
 my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
 "Make straight the way of the Lord,"'
 as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 (cont.)**

Your input for the church's community ministry: Michael Bischoff has collected many ideas from church members and others in the community about possible projects that FMC could do in the neighborhood. If you weren't at his Nov. 23 presentation about these options, please ask Michael for a copy, so you can vote for which you think the church is most called to do. Michael will have copies of this summary available during the fellowship time today (12/14). You may also get a copy from Michael at michael@clarityfacilitation.com.

Announcements

4:45 p.m. today – Carol Sing, Christmas Program & Cookie Social

Please bring cookies to share and an “offering” of hats, mittens, and non-perishable food items for Community Emergency Service. Monetary gifts will be divided between the FMC Deacon’s Fund and the Pan-African Community Organization’s start-up fund for a new after-school learning center located in the Seward neighborhood.

See how MCC is working in New Orleans, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. John Stoesz, MCC Central States Executive Director, will present “Everyone has the Right to Return,” a power point presentation and discussion in the FMC fellowship hall. MCC and our partner organizations are seeking justice and dignity for all. Come to this presentation and learn how you can join MCC Central States in the movement for justice in New Orleans.

Volunteers are needed for weekend snow shoveling, nursery care, and fellowship time refreshments. Watch for circulating sign-up sheets today!

Transportation needed for MCC Health Kits and soap donations.

We have received two donations of relief items for MCC. A boy scout in Warroad, MN, organized the collection and assembly of 470 health kits for his Eagle Scout project. A family from Red Wing collected 8 bags of bath soap for their Thanksgiving project. If anyone is traveling to Goshen or Newton, please take a bag or a box or two. The items are in the stairwell by the lift. Thank you!

Bethany Lutheran Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service, 5 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 24. Plan to arrive by 4:15 for pre-service refreshments and organist Yuko’s Christmas recital. 2511 East Franklin Avenue

Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq and Other Child Victims of War, Sunday, December 28, 6:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Avenue S., Mpls. This annual service, organized by the Twin Cities Peace Campaign, remembers the children who have died as a result of sanctions and war. FMC is a sponsor.

Church Meetings and Events

December 16 – Lectionary Discussion (Isa 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40)

8:30 a.m. at Trotter’s Café, Cleveland & Marshall, SP

December 16 – MCC program on work in New Orleans, 7 p.m., FMC

December 21 – Advent Choir rehearsal, 9 a.m.

December 28 – no Christian education

January 8 – Dialog on race with Rev. Agnew, Elliot Park Rec, 6:30 p.m.

January 11 – FMC Area Group gatherings

January 19 – MLK youth work day at FMC