

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
December 20, 2009 Fourth 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

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 8:1-7; Luke 1:39-55)

L: We live in troubled times, but God’s light bursts into our dark world.

P: God delivers on promises. We feel the stirring of a new age. God is the shepherd taking care of his flock. God has brought down the powerful and exalted the lowly.

L: The Lord is coming! We long for salvation, yet how we tremble at it’s advent.

All: We trust and will not be afraid, for you have promised that the child now leaping in the womb will exceed our hopes and deliver us from our fears. All glory and praise be to you, O God of promise. We worship you.

***Hymn:** “My soul proclaims with wonder” #181 HWB

Song: “I will trust in you” ~ Ensemble

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Keynote text: Luke 1:39-56

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

Children’s time: “B is for Bethlehem” ~ Chris Jones

Hymn: “Go tell it on the mountain”

Text of hope: Micah 5:2-5a

Sermon: “God’s surprising ways”

Hymns: “My soul is filled with joy” #13 STJ

Litany of Response (insert)

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

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: “Advent Joy” arr. by William David Young
Advent Choir, Neil Okerlund director

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

Introduction of Guests

***Sending Hymn:** “O little town of Bethlehem” #191 HWB, vv. 1-3

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- Fellowship time –10:45-11:10 a.m.

- Children’s singing time – 11 a.m., chapel

- Christian Education – 11:15-noon

Adult sessions: -Money and Faith (Chapel)

-The Politics of Jesus (Library)

TODAY: God delivers!

Worship Leader: Annette Semanchin-Jones **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach, with
Chris & Annette Semanchin-Jones, Gregg Richardson & Joan Kreider

Candle lighters: Kaufman-Wengerd family

Scripture recitation: Matthew Kinney

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

Nursery volunteers: Thaine Dirks & Rich Deming

Fellowship: Gerald Schlabach

NEXT SUNDAY: Let all creation praise God!

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach

Reflections: several people will share significant events from the past year

Song leader: Hermann Weinlick **Piano:** Gregg Richardson

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers Needed

Fellowship: Sundseth

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.

Please check out the 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 21-24

Pastor: Mon: 2-5 p.m., Wed 9-4 p.m., Thurs 9-3. Tuesday is a study day.
Joetta is open to receiving calls at home on Mon. and Wed. 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

Dec 13: Attendance: 106 Offering: \$1,919

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols, December 24, 6:30 p.m. If you're in town for Christmas we invite you to join in this simple, candle-light service.

Silent meditation, Sundays, 9-9:30 a.m. in the chapel. All are welcome. For more information: Rich Deming, 612-722-7625.

Church Meetings and Events

December 22– Lectionary Discussion Group (Isaiah 60:1-6; Matt 2:1-12)

Trotter's, corner of Cleveland & Marshall, SP

December 29 – Newsletter submissions due to Gregg Richardson, noon

January 11 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

January 13 – Annual Reports are due

February 7 – Annual Congregational Meeting

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

L: Lord, in this time of Advent, we celebrate your presence with us and long for your coming. We rejoice that you deliver.

P: Lord, make us ready. Deliver us from sin and hopelessness. We celebrate your light coming into our darkness.

L: We remember the hope Jesus brings to all people in all times and places.

P: Rejoice! God delivers!

L: We remember the peace God gives, a flickering candle that the night cannot understand or extinguish.

P: Rejoice! God delivers!

L: We rejoice because God is in our midst, turning us around and taking away our fear. God rejoices over us with gladness, God renews us with love.

P: Rejoice! God delivers!

L: We look for signs in the heavens and God sends a baby. God's saving mercy breaks through time and space to include even us.

P: Rejoice! God delivers!

Announcements

It's snow shoveling time again! Our custodian Michelle Hutchins keeps the walks shoveled during the week, but we need weekend volunteers. Sign-up sheet is at back of sanctuary.

A new Fellowship (snack) sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary with dates for the months of January and February. We need two volunteers each Sunday for preparation, snack and clean up.

Birthday Brunch begins in January! If you or a family member has a birthday in January, pastor Joetta invites you to her home (248 Aurora Ave., St. Paul) for brunch on Saturday, Jan. 2, from 10 a.m.-noon. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area or email jschlabach@faithmennonite.org.

Photos from the Christmas program are available for viewing on the FMC web site and on our FMC members Facebook page. The full set of almost 60 photos is available from Dan Leisen through the web based gallery Picasa. From Picasa you can view the photos and download any you wish to copy or print. Send Dan an email dleisen@earthlink.net and he will "invite" you to the site so you can access the photos.

Looking for books (from Pat Eliason) After Christmas I am planning to return to Jamaica to work at the Robin's Nest home for children. I am trying to build more of a library there for the kids and would like to take a box of books with me. I'm especially interested in books for the pre-teen/teenage group. **Please bring any books** you would like to donate **this Sunday or next** and place in the marked box. Thank you, Pat Eliason

Ten Thousand Village at Kensington Park – If you live in the south metro, you might want to tell your neighbors about a TTV sale that is going on until Christmas in Kensington Park (77th and Lyndale, next to Potbelly's). The store is open Friday, Saturday and Sundays. On the 26th and 27th, any remaining product will be 50% off.

Out of Darkness, Into the Light, Monday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 pm

The Church of St. Joan of Arc will host a prayer service for the children of Iraq and Afghanistan and other child victims of war. This candlelight service, prepared by the Twin Cities Peace Campaign and held yearly on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, is a powerful and poignant time to remember the children who are always the first victims of war. 4537 Third Ave. S., Mpls.