

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 21, 2008 ~ Fourth 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 2 Samuel 7 and Luke 1)

L: God is looking for a home, a place to move into, a place to reside.

P: And not just any home. Not just any temple.

L: God is interested in flesh-and-blood homes,
bodies to receive God's presence.

**P: Not perfect bodies, but willing bodies,
ready to welcome the gift of Divine life.**

L: The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

**P: The most High desires us as a home,
a place to move into, a place to reside.**

ALL: For nothing will be impossible with God. Thanks be to God.

***Hymns:** "God is here among us" #16 HWB

"My soul proclaims with wonder" #181 HWB

Prayer of Confession

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

**Side 1: In some faces we see the desperation of the lowly
who never have enough and who fear for their safety.**

**Side 2: In our own faces we see sorrow when the strong overpower
the weak.**

L: We wait eagerly for the coming of justice.

ALL: Restore us, O God, let your face shine and be born within us.

Song: "Save us, O Lord"

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11

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

Children's Time: Building a home for God

Hymn: "My soul is filled with joy" #13 STJ *Sophia Harder Kouay, solo v. 1*

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "Perplexed and Pondering: Creating Room for the Holy One"

Hymn: "Take, O take me as I am" #81 STJ

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 Choral Offertory: "Magnificat" *Advent Choir, Neil Okerlund*

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

Introduction of Guests

***Sending hymn:** "Oh how shall I receive thee" #182 HWB

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

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

- **Children's music – 11 a.m.**, Room 201, education wing

- **Education for all ages – 11:15-noon**

Adult classes

*Politics and Spirituality, Chapel, Education wing

*The Bible and Feminism, Fellowship Hall

TODAY: The indwelling face of God

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

Piano: Melissa Falb & Cathy Smetana **Cello:** Elena Kuenning

Readers: Wendy Brunner, Matthew Kinney, Bob Mack, Leslie Minkler

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers Needed

Fellowship: Kathleen Harder & Jenny Wandersee

NEXT SUNDAY: The hopeful face of God

Sermon: Greg Renstrom **Worship leader:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson **Piano:** Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers Needed

Fellowship: Sandra & Dick Westby

** *There will be no Christian Education classes next Sunday*

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 Lutt, Mike Okerstrom
Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 22-26

Pastor: Joetta will be in Indiana December 22-27. Please contact a deacon for pastoral care needs or in case of an emergency this week.

Michael Bischoff: no office hours this week

Office Assistant: Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30-1:30

Email all bulletin items before Tuesday 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 14: Attendance: 89 Offering: \$3,702

Church Meetings and Events

December 23 No Lectionary Discussion this week

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

January 11 – FMC Area Group gatherings

January 14 – Annual Reports Due

January 19 – MLK youth work day at FMC

February 8 – Annual Meeting

February 14-16 – Men's Retreat

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ ³Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’

(over)

³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

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

Christmas cards for Nicole Ratigan Green & Vicente Leisen are on the fellowship area table for you to sign today.

Christmas Eve worship opportunities:

- **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
- **Emmanuel Mennonite Church Christmas Eve service**, 6:30 p.m., Messiah Lutheran, 2504 Columbus Avenue S, Minneapolis.

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.

Ry and Marcia Siggelkow are moving on Mon., Dec. 29, from 4331 Irving Ave N, Minneapolis to 1116 Ashland Ave, # 3, St Paul. They’ll load up the truck in the morning in N Minneapolis and unload the truck in the afternoon in St. Paul. People able to help can email or call them, they would appreciate the help (maflyer@gmail.com 612-588-7999)

FMC New Years Eve Game Night, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-?? Bring a game, a snack or beverage to share. We’ll meet in the chapel and nursery/ education rooms to make this a family-friendly event.

End of year giving ideas. Several Mennonite institutions invite your consideration for end-of-year giving:

- Your contribution to **Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary** in Elkhart, Indiana, is an investment in the future of the church, one of the most valuable investments you can make in this uncertain time. You can make a gift online www.ambs.edu/giving/give-online
- **Mennonite Disaster Service** needs donations to fund Hurricane Ike reconstruction. For online giving: <http://mds.mennonite.net/>

From Mennonite Mission Network: Please pray for the three Mennonite churches in Hong Kong as next Sunday they consider their decision to join together as one church.