

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 27, 2009

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Psalm 148; 1 Samuel 1:13-20, 26)

L: We who lived in the shadows have seen a great light! Let us come to worship our Lord!

P: Glory from the heavens embraces creation, like a mother's arms holding a newborn baby. Sun, moon and stars proclaim God's salvation. Let our hearts give thanks, our spirits sing and our hands rejoice! Enter God's presence, and be reborn!

L: Lord God, we adore you. We rejoice at your birth and respond by living out your word.

All: Gracious Sustainer, we bow in awe before your unwavering support, always there to hold us up.

*Prayer

*Hymns: "Joy to the world" #318 HWB

"Good Christian friends rejoice!" #210 HWB

Candle lighting

Hymn: "Break forth, o beauteous heavenly light" #203 HWB

Children's gathering hymn: "Come light of the world"

Children's time: Luke 2:41-52

Hymn: "Away in a manger" #194 HWB (traditional tune)

Text of hope: Psalm 148

Hymn: "'Twas in the moon of wintertime" #190 HWB (v. 1)

Reflections: "Winter Count: Recalling significant events of the year"

Hymn: "'Twas in the moon of wintertime" #190 HWB (v. 2, 3, 4)

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:** "Holy child within the manger" (insert)

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

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

- **There will be no Christian education classes today.** Classes resume next Sunday.

- If you don't have other plans for lunch, let's gather for the buffet at the **Himalayan Restaurant, corner of Franklin & 24th Avenue, 11:30 a.m.**

TODAY: Let all creation praise God!

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach **Scripture reader:** Matthew Kinney

Reflections: Sam Bartel, Cynthia Miller, Paula Okerstrom

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

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers Needed

Fellowship: Minke Sundseth

NEXT SUNDAY: Arise! Shine! Reveal the mystery!

Worship Leader: **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Donna Stucky **Piano:** Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Beth Richardson & Barbara Beers

Fellowship: Kami Blackwell-Kinney & Beth Richardson

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.

Dec 20: Attendance: 77

Offering: \$2,651

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 28-31

Pastor: Mon: 11 a.m.-2 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

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

Candlelight prayer service for the children of Iraq and Afghanistan and other child victims of war. The Church of St. Joan of Arc 4537 Third Ave. S., Mpls.

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.

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.

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

February 20 – Council & Commissions Retreat, 9-noon, FMC

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Psalms 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

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.

JANUARY ADULT EDUCATION Planned by the Deacon's Commission

January 3 We will begin the New Year with an **extended fellowship time**, organized by Kami Blackwell-Kinney & Beth Richardson

January 10 Faith Formation in the Family. Studies show that the home was the primary place of faith development for most people who remain actively involved in a faith community as an adult. We'll hear from various folks and share ideas about how we can nurture faith in our home settings across the lifespan.

January 17 In the end is our beginning... As a follow up to the Mennonite Mutual Aid class, "Making our Wishes Known," in November, we will take the opportunity to fill out advance directives forms and funeral planning forms.

January 24 - World Fellowship Sunday. Patricia Mack will share about her experience at Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay.

January 31 – Navigating the Healing of Trauma with STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) Donna Minter will give a presentation that she is preparing for the Augsburg College Nobel Peace Prize Forum in March

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.