

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 28, 2008 ~ Christmas

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 Psalm 148 and Luke 2:30)

L: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens on high..

P: Sun, moon, and stars, solar systems and galaxies—praise the Lord.

L: Praise the Lord from the depths of ocean and canyon.

P: Sea creatures swimming deep below the surface and plant life growing in the crevices of the earth, species known and those yet to be discovered—praise the Lord.

L: Praise the Lord from the land, in all its thriving diversity.

P: Microbes, insects, wild and domestic animals, women and men, infants, elderly, and everyone in between—praise the Lord.

ALL: For our eyes have seen your salvation which is for all creation—love incarnate in the Christ child. Praise the Lord!

*Hymns: “Hark! the herald angels sing” #201 HWB

“The first Noel, the angel did say” #199 HWB

Prayer of Confession

L: Many faces plead for our attention this week.

Side 1: In some faces we see thoughtlessness and greed, with too little concern for the welfare of others.

Side 2: In our own faces we see that often we are too preoccupied to recognize and be grateful for the gift of our salvation

L: Yet now the time has come to shout praises to the Lord

ALL: Restore us, O God, let your face shine because your salvation has come—a Child of Hope is born!

Song: “Gloria” #204 HWB

First Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-21

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

Children’s Time: Mark Kaufman & Heather Wengerd

Hymn: “While shepherds watched” #196 HWB

Second Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: “Finding a Hopeful Life”

Hymn: “O little town of Bethlehem” #191 HWB

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: “Joy to the world” #318 HWB

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

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

- No Christian Education classes today.

TODAY: The hopeful face of God

Sermon: Greg Renstrom

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Gregg Richardson

Piano: Sandra Westby

Saxophone: Michelle Okerstrom

Reader: Bob Mack

Nursery volunteers: Dan Leisen and Two Volunteers

Fellowship: Sandra & Dick Westby

NEXT SUNDAY: Epiphany: The welcoming face of God

Sermon: Michael Bischoff

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Jane Ramseyer Miller

Piano: Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Volunteers Needed

Fellowship: Tom Johnson and One Volunteer Needed

Next Sunday we will begin a 3-week adult education series on Worship:

Jan 4: The role of singing in Mennonite worship

Jan 11: The many pieces of worship

Jan 18: Communion practices in Mennonite (and other) traditions

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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E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faimennonite.org

FMC OFFICE HOURS: December 29-January 2

Pastor: Monday & Tuesday 9-5; Wednesday 9-1

The church office will be closed Wednesday afternoon through Friday.

Michael Bischoff: no office hours this week

Office Assistant: Tuesday & 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.

Church Meetings and Events

December 30 – Lectionary Discussion (Jer 31:7-14; Eph 1:3-14; Jn 1:1-18)

8:30 a.m., Trotter's, corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

January 11 – FMC Neighborhood gatherings

January 14 – Annual reports due

February 1 – Parent/Child Dedication Sunday

February 8 – Church Membership and Annual Meeting Sunday

February 14-16 – Men's Retreat

Luke 2:1-21

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

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.

If you missed Faith Church's Christmas program, or just want to see your darling little angel again — you can go to www.faithmennonite.org for online pictures from the evening program. You will also find all the Advent sermons if you follow the Worship links.

Moving help request from Ry and Marcia Siggelkow: We are moving on **Monday, December 29**, from our current residence at 4331 Irving Ave N, Minneapolis to an apartment at 1116 Ashland Ave, # 3, St Paul. We'll load up the truck in the morning in N Minneapolis and unload the truck in the afternoon in St. Paul. If people could email or call us (maflyer@gmail.com 612-588-7999) to let us know if and when they are willing to help, this would be great. Thanks in advance! Ry and Marcia

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.

Race Forum— Jan. 8: Join a community dialogue about race, hosted by Bethesda Baptist Church. The forum is held at the Elliot Park Fieldhouse (1000 14th St. E, Minneapolis). A light supper will be provided at 6:30 pm and the discussion will be from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Rev. Agnew, the pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church has invited members of Faith Mennonite to join this forum, as a part of our congregation getting to know members of their congregation.

Worship at Bethesda Baptist Church: A group from Faith Mennonite will be participating in worship at **Bethesda Baptist Church on January 18th** at 11:30 am. Please join us! The church is at 1118 S 8th St, on the east side of downtown Minneapolis. For more information about either event with Bethesda Church, contact Michael Bischoff at 612-521-1889.

New email address for Alisa Bardo-Martinson — bardo.martinson@gmail.com Please delete the ParkNicollet.com address.

Volunteers are needed for weekend snow shoveling, nursery care and fellowship time refreshments. Please sign-up on the sheets at the back of the sanctuary.