

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2014

Pronouncement: Luke 1:46-55

***Gathering hymn:** "My soul cries out" (insert)

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who is here and desires our worship. Redeeming God, work in our hearts so that we would be filled with the joy and comes from remembering your splendor.

All: *Oh, that you would reveal your joy to us, O Lord.*

L: We celebrate the year of the Lord's favor.

People: a time of comfort for those who mourn.

L: There will be garlands instead of ashes,

P: joyful anointing instead of mourning,

L: songs of praise instead of spirits of despair,

P: cities of renewal instead of devastation.

All: *God will wrap us in robes of justice.*

Come, O God, and cloths us in garments of new life.

***Hymn:** "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service" #369 HWB

Confessions & Assurance

Leader: God, you reveal your joy to us and through us. We recognize that our actions as a congregation and as Mennonites have not always led to others sharing in your joy.

All: *We confess that we have sometimes excluded people from fellowship, displayed disunity, and have failed to display your joy to our neighbors and the world. Forgive our church, and us, for the roles that we have played.* (silence)

Leader: Christ bids us to rise, trusting that we have been forgiven, and turn from our life of sin. (all stand, as able)

Congregation: As in Christ God forgave us, may we extend forgiveness to those who destroy our joy.

All: *Restore our joy, O God, and save us.*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Hymn: "Creator of the stars of night" #177 HWB (vv. 1, 5, 6)

Old Testament reading: Psalm 126

Children's Gathering Song: "Come and See" #20 HWB

Children's Time: "Revealing joy" ~John Ratigan

Song: "Oh be joyful, Oh be jubilant, put your sorrows far away
Come rejoice and sing together this happy day"

New Testament reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Sermon: "The kairos and community of joy"

Hymn: "Rejoice, rejoice, believers" (insert)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother 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 worship leader)

Introduction of Guests

***Sending hymn:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #178 HWB

***Benediction:**

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship time

11:00 Christian Education for all ages. Adults will meet in the fellowship hall. Theme: "Seeking God's Will Together: A congregational study on communal biblical discernment." Today's topic: "When we don't agree."

TODAY: Advent 3: Oh, that you would reveal your joy

Worship leader: Katie Cuffey

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Ushers: Rhonda Martin, Cathy Higgins

Piano: Melissa Falb

Nursery: Cynthia Villegas, Kristi Zabriskie

Song leader: Josh Hofer

Fellowship: Jenny Wandersee, Karen Wiebe

Reader: Cynthia Villegas

NEXT SUNDAY: Advent 4: Oh, that you would reveal your love

(2 Samuel 7:1-11; Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38)

Worship leader: Ry Siggelkow

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Ushers: Cori Skogerboe, Darrell Martin

Song leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Nursery: Matthew Hendricks, Alisa Bardo-Martinson

Piano: Karen Zeug

Fellowship: Richardsons

Snow: Mike Okerstrom

Next Sunday two families will participate in a Parent/Child Dedication and Blessing. Please pray for Brian & Rachel Hoskins and Dylan & Elena Vidas as they anticipate this time. We will hold a shower for these families during the fellowship time.

Faith Mennonite Church
Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus
Deacons: Thaine Dirks, Glenn Geissinger
Kristin Green, Melissa Hochstetler, Adam Nafziger
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FMC office hours: Dec 15-19

Pastor: Tues 9:30-11:30; 1:30-4:30; Wed & Thurs 8:30-3.

Ministry Staff: Tues, Thurs, 9-12, 4-7

Email bulletin items by Wed. evening. Bulletin printed Thurs. afternoon.

December 7: Attendance: 100 Deacons: \$75 Local Budget: \$7,634

TODAY, 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, **Annual FMC Christmas Program and Cookie Social.** Everyone is welcome to invite family and friends and bring a plate of cookies or other snacks to share afterwards. On duty: Gregg & Beth Richardson, Scott Bates & Tonya Boschmann, Kathleen Harder. Following the cookie social, all who are able will go to the Augustana Care Center to **sing Christmas carols** with Terry Gerber.

Thank you to the Advent Worship Planning Team: Alisa Bardo-Martinson, Joel Cuffey, Kathleen Harder, Heather Reinert, Ry Siggelkow, and Joetta Schlabach. Heather Reinert designed the Advent visual components and Dan Leisen designed the bulletin cover art.

Church Meetings and Events (online calendar: www.faithmennonite.org)

December 16 – Sunday Text Discussion, 8:30 a.m., Seward Coop

December 19 – Ecumenical Taizé service, Prospect Park UMC, 6 p.m.
soup, 7 p.m. prayer

December 22 – January newsletter items due to Gregg Richardson, noon

December 24 – FMC Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m. sanctuary

January 7 – Annual reports due to the church office

February 1 – FMC Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:30 a.m.



Announcements

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Leader: 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.

30th Annual MN Homeless Memorial March and Service, this Thursday, Dec. 18. 5 p.m. Silent March and Vigil, Hennepin County Government Center; 6:30 p.m. Service of Remembrance and 7:30 p.m. Community Meal, Simpson United Methodist Church, 2740 1st Ave. S., Mpls. See www.simpsonhousing.org for further details.

The final **ecumenical Taize prayer service** of 2014 will be **this Friday, Dec. 19** at Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Ave. SE, Mpls. Soup supper at 6 p.m., prayer at 7 p.m. All are welcome to this contemplative time.

FMC Christmas Eve Service. Greg Renstrom has offered to lead a Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary beginning at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. The service will be appropriate for all ages and will include carols, readings, a children's time, and a Christmas meditation. All are welcome!

One of the last steps before we can develop a job description/plan for shared ministry for FMC is to prioritize and articulate our expectations for the ministry team. To assist us in this task, **please fill out our online survey** at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/WS26Q2D. The first 20 questions mirror the form used by MCUSA to match pastoral staff candidates to congregations. They ask for you to rate priority in a range from low to high. The last two questions allow for free text answers. Paper copies are available on the back table. *—Noah Skogerboe*

Our annual **group subscription renewals** are happening over the next two weeks. FMC provides one Mennonite publication subscription for members or regular attendees, either the monthly magazine *The Mennonite* or the bi-weekly *Mennonite World Review*. To start a new subscription or change your current one, or **to receive a free book** for a new MWR subscription (see fliers in mail slots) email faithmc@faithmennonite.org **by Dec. 22**. Shared copies of both publications are located on the literature rack—anyone may borrow them as needed. Offering plate contributions toward subscription costs welcome.

Thank you to Larry and Karen Peterson for their diligent work in running electrical wiring up to the "upper room" youth classroom and installing a thermostatically controlled electric heater. The project had challenges but they persisted, with some assistance from Jerry Janzen.

Rudy is Seventy & Rockin'. Come celebrate with me. **Recital:** classical... gospel... folk... story time... jazz... rap. **Sunday, Jan. 4,** 3 p.m. at FMC. Reception following the performance. *—Rudy Okerlund*

Sausage from the TC Relief Sale is still available: \$10 per 2 lb package, frozen, uncooked. Contact: Vern Schultz. To coordinate delivery, cc Teresa Wasick.

Travis Lusk has need of a **regular-length single bed** for his son. If you have one you are ready to part with, please contact Travis.

Couple with dog looking for a room/house/apartment to rent. We received an inquiry from John & Denay Murray of Phoenix, AZ, who are moving to St. Paul. They are interested in “a room/house/apartment to rent for a young married couple and their dog--ideally fairly close to the St. Kate’s St. Paul campus.” Sometime between April and July 2015.