

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
Advent 2: The World Is About to Turn
December 9, 2007

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

***Hymns:** “Comfort, comfort, O my people” #176 HWB
“Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming” #211 HWB

First reading: Psalm 72 (insert)

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Children’s Gathering Hymn: “Come and See” #20 HWB

Children’s Time: Advent Visitor: Isaiah

Procession of the Advent Candle ~ “My soul cries out”
Congregation join on v. 2 (HWB back insert)

Second reading: Matthew 3:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon: “The Peaceable Kingdom”

Moment of Reflection

Hymn: “Slowly turning, ever turning” #23 STJ

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: “Sing we now of Christmas!” ~ Advent Choir

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

Introduction of Guests

***Sending Hymn:** “Freedom is coming” (HWB back insert)

***Benediction**

Postlude

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

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.

Community Time

- Fellowship time 10:45-11:00 a.m.

- Christian Education 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- Children’s education begins at 11 a.m. with singing in Room 201
- Adult education classes:
 - The “Sandwich Generation” –Fellowship hall
 - Anabaptism: Then & Now –Library
 - Silent Contemplation – Pastor’s Study
- Leadership Transition Committee will meet during this time

- Advent Choir will rehearse following Christian Education in sanctuary

TODAY: “Take heart! God turns barrenness into fruitfulness”

Sermon: Gregg Richardson

Worship & Song Leader: Adam Nafziger

Advent Visitor: Matthew Blackwell-Kinney

Piano: Cathy Smetana & Sue Ruby

Childcare: Jenny Wandersee & Joan Wing

Fellowship Time: Glenn & Arlene Geissinger

Christmas Caroling: 7 p.m. at Joan Kreider’s

Hmong New Year Celebration: 1-4 p.m. at Hmong Mennonite Church,
540 Hamline Avenue, St. Paul – just north of University Avenue

NEXT SUNDAY: “Rejoice! God’s justice breaks forth”

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Worship Leader: Adam Nafziger

Piano: Gregg Richardson

Childcare: Wolf & Shelly Bartel

Song Leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Fellowship Time: *Volunteer Needed*

Snow Shoveling (Dec. 10-16): Orv & Cleta Gingerich

Throughout Advent we will light a peace lamp, identical in design to peace lamps that Mennonites presented to religious leaders in Iraq (2002) and Iran (2007). Let us pray for peace in our world. At the back of the sanctuary you will find letters of petition to Senators Coleman and Klobuchar and Representative Ellison, asking for their support of peaceful relations between the US and Iran.

Faith Mennonite Church

Interim Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Deacons: Candace Lutt, Martha Mayou, Mike Okerstrom,
Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: Dec. 10-14

Pastors' Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9-4; Friday 8:30-12:30. Monday Joetta will be in an all-day workshop. Tuesday she will attend the area Mennonite pastors meeting in Faribault.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

Dec. 2: Attendance: 62

Offering: \$3,082

Subscriptions to *The Mennonite*: Today is the last day to notify Aryn if you would like to join our group subscription. Costs covered by FMC.

Petitioning for Peace: If anyone is interested in personally delivering the letters of petition to Senators Coleman and Klobuchar and Representative Ellison asking for their support of peaceful relations between the US and Iran, please contact the Church office.

St. Martin's Table will have extended hours on Tuesdays during Advent, serving dinner from 5-7 p.m. (soups, salads, sandwiches). Saturday bookstore hours will also be extended during December from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Cleta Roth will be working some of these evenings and hopes to see people from FMC!

Psalm 72

L: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**M: May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

**May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

*W: May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.*

L: He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

**All: *May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.***

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the

axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Church Meetings and Events

December 10 – Church Council, 7 p.m. @ FMC

December 13 – Deacons, 1 p.m. @ Richardson's

December 16 – Christmas program, cookie social & caroling, 5 p.m. @ FMC

December 23 & 30 – No Christian education

December 18 – Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq, 6:30 @ St. Joan of Arc Church

January 9 – Commission & Committee Annual Reports Due

January 14 – Neighborhood Groups, 5-7 p.m.