

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
Advent 3: The World Is About to Turn
December 16, 2007

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 85 and 146)

*All: Wisdom will flow from God's presence,
And justice will follow her voice.*

L: Let me hear what God declares,

C: for the Lord is declaring peace.

*All: Wisdom will flow from God's presence,
And justice will follow her voice.*

L: The Lord decides for the poor and loves the just.

**C: The Lord keeps faith forever
and is faithful to all generations.**

*All: Wisdom will flow from God's presence,
And justice will follow her voice.*

***Hymns:** "My soul proclaims with wonder" #181
"My soul cries out" (HWB back insert) v. 1-3

Procession of the Advent Candle & Lighting of the Peace Lamp

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

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

Children's Time: Advent Visitor: Elizabeth & John the Baptist

Hymn: "Hark! the glad sound" #184 HWB

Gospel reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon: "What did you go out to see?"

Moment of Reflection

Hymn: "God is working his purpose out" #638 HWB

Congregational Sharing

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.

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: "A Christmas noel!" ~ 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

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.

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 (this is the last Sunday for fall classes):
 - The "Sandwich Generation" –Fellowship hall
 - Anabaptism: Then & Now –Library
 - Silent Contemplation – Pastor's Study
 - Leadership Transition Committee will meet during this time
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TODAY: "Rejoice! God's justice breaks forth"

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Worship Leader: Adam Nafziger

Song Leader: Phil Stoltzfus

Advent Visitors: Beth & Gregg Richardson

Piano: Sandra Westby

Childcare: Wolf & Shelly Bartel

Fellowship Time: Joan Kreider

Christmas Program: 5 p.m. at FMC (parents please bring children by 4:45). Followed by cookie social and Christmas caroling at Seward Towers East and in neighborhood, ending with hot chocolate at the Westbys. We will take a special offering during the evening service.

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. 17-21

Pastors' Hours: Monday: 10-2; Wed. & Thursday: 9-4; Friday: 9-1.
Tuesday is a study day.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

NEXT SUNDAY: “Be restored! Your salvation is here”

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Worship Leader: Bob Mack

Piano: David Mayou

Song Leader: Hermann Weinlick

Childcare: Minke Sundseth & *Volunteer Needed*

Fellowship Time: *Volunteer Needed*

Snow Shoveling (Dec. 17-22): Tom Johnson

Dec. 9: Attendance: 83

Offering: \$2,883.75

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Emmanuel Mennonite Church invites any and all from Faith Mennonite Church to attend their **Christmas Eve service** at 6:30 PM, at Luther Seminary's Chapel of the Cross (in the Northwest Administration Bldg., at the corner of Hendon and Fulham Streets). If it is snowing heavily that night, call 651-766-9759 to see if the service is canceled as lots will not be plowed.

Congratulations to Richard Westby who was honored at the December meeting of the Seward Civic and Commerce Association for his life-long involvement in the Seward neighborhood and his many contributions to building a healthy community.

Congratulations to Stacy Griffin for the successful completion of her degree in education from St. Olaf College. We look forward to seeing her back at FMC in January.

Congregational positions: The slate of candidates for officers, commission and committee members for 2008, to be affirmed at the February 3 Congregational Meeting, has been placed in mail boxes. An explanation for a proposed extension of term for the current moderator and moderator-elect is attached.

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. Clea Roth will be working some of these evenings and hopes to see people from FMC!

Prayer Request: Mennonite Mission Network workers Amanda and Gamaliel Falla are returning to Barranquilla, Colombia, to continue developing church work. Pray that they will have wisdom and vision to motivate pastors and leaders, encourage churches to grow and to open new churches in that region.

Church Meetings and Events

- December 22 – Youth & College party, 9 p.m. at Richardson's
- December 23 & 30 – No Christian education
- December 28 – Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq, 6:30 @ St. Joan of Arc Church
- January 9 – Commission & Committee Annual Reports Due
- January 13 – Neighborhood Groups, 5-7 p.m.
- January 14 – Church Council, 7 p.m. @ FMC
- February 3 – Potluck and Congregational Meeting

New Christian Education Classes for a New Year

(Classes begin January 6th)

Food & Spirituality

Facilitated by Carol Harder

Consideration of biblical patterns of food use as witness to God's love is an excellent place to begin the Faith Mennonite Church continuation of the legacy. As we eat, we participate in a co-creative act with God. Can FMC use food to create holy spaces for people to write yet another chapter of God's love present in the history of the universe? Theory will be combined with hands-on learning. Yes, intellectual stimulation, intuitive openness, emotional fortitude and snack will be available.

Exploring the New Testament

Facilitated by Hermann Weinlick

What is the place of a book in a faith tradition? How did the New Testament as we know it come to be? How was it decided what to include? Was it written for us? How do the four Gospels differ from each other? What differences in belief and practice do we find among New Testament Christians? These, and the questions you bring, are some of the issues we will try to discuss in a twelve-week study of the New Testament.

Nurturing our Development as Human Beings

Facilitated by Beth Richardson

An interactive discussion among "aged wisdom" (those who have raised children), "those in the midst" (those who are raising children), and "opinionated 3rd parties" (anyone else interested in the discussion). Topics include the stages of human development; human development in relation to parental discipline, the culture, material goods money, life focus and direction, sexuality, personal health, emotional health, environment, social justice, the peace witness, and the church and religious institutions; developing ourselves and children as spiritual beings; parental relationships with adult children; definitions of family in a mobile society. Additional topic ideas are welcomed. See December Newsletter for details about how your participation is requested.