

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
Advent 4: The World Is About to Turn
December 23, 2007

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

L: Come, O people! Worship Immanuel—God with us!

**C: All across a weary world, turning slowly
with stiff and painful joints,**

L: God-with-us turns us, ever so gently,
in the dance of a new dream

*All: Come, Immanuel! God with us!
May hope bloom once more within our hearts*

***Hymns:** “Savior of the nations, come” #173
“My soul cries out” (*HWB back insert*)

Procession of the Advent Candle & Lighting of the Peace Lamp

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

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

Children’s Time: Advent Visitor: Mary

Hymn: “The virgin Mary had a baby boy” #202 HWB

New Testament reading: Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: “The Birth of Hope”

Moment of Reflection

Hymn: “O come, all ye faithful” #212 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

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

***Please stand if you are able**

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**

Postlude

Throughout Advent we are lighting 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 classes will resume on January 6. Thank you to teachers who taught during the fall semester!

TODAY: “Be restored! Your salvation is here”

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Worship Leader: Bob Mack **Guitars:** Gerald & Jacob Schlabach

Song Leader: Hermann Weinlick

Advent Visitors: Messay Tamrat

Accompanist: David Mayou **Offertory:** Sam Bartel

Childcare: Minke Sundseth

Fellowship Time: Gregg & Beth Richardson

NEXT SUNDAY: “Praise the Lord! God’s gracious acts prevail”

Sermon: Shuji Moriichi

Worship Leader: Bob Mack **Piano:** Gregg Richardson

Song Leader: Hermann Weinlick

Childcare: Martha & David Mayou

Fellowship Time: Tom Johnson

Snow Shoveling (Dec. 24-29): Jacob Schlabach

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.

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. 24-28

Pastors' Hours: Monday: 9-1; Thursday: 9-4; Friday: 9-3.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:

faithmc@faithmennonite.org

Dec. 16: Attendance: 94 Offering: \$2,490.50

A Card of Thanks to the FMC Christmas carolers from the Seward Tower East residents who attended the Sunday evening party is on the bulletin board in the entrance. About 12 folks from Faith enjoyed a spirited time of caroling with a group of around 25 children and adults who live in the Tower.

Donations for Community Emergency Service (CES) are requested to address an urgent need for Men's winter gloves. Other high priority needs at this time are toilet paper, children's mittens and hats, size 4 and larger diapers, and cooking oil – especially olive oil. Donations of these items can be placed on the back table with food shelf items. So far this year FMC has donated 262 pounds of food, personal body care supplies, and paper goods. Last year FMC donated 834 pounds to CES.

Renters or house-sitters needed through the winter to assist a family who recently moved out of the city and has a 3-bedroom home. Contact Hermann Weinlick for more information.

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

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).

Senior High/College Student Service Project & Party – Dec. 27: The group will meet at the Seward Community Support Program (a mental health drop-in facility) at 4:15, at 2105 Minnehaha Ave, on the corner of Minnehaha and Franklin in Minneapolis. Youth will help prepare and serve a monthly meal for clients. Followed by a party at the Richardson’s, 963 Bayless Avenue, St. Paul.

Faith Christmas Nativity Program: Dan Leisen has produced a short Quicktime movie of the program. If you would like a copy (or copies) of the CD, contact Dan. He is asking for \$5.00 per CD to pay for his time and efforts on this project.

Mennonite World Conference assembly will be held in Paraguay in July 2009. Although that seems like a long way off, the conference planners would like to get an idea of how many people are planning to attend. If anyone thinks they might like to attend please talk with Joetta.

Save the Date for Winter Fun: FMC Ski Retreat is scheduled this year for January 26-27. We will go to St. Croix State Park. More details to follow.

Church Meetings and Events

- December 27 – Youth Service Project @ Seward Community Support Program (4:30 p.m.), followed by a Youth & College party, at Richardson’s (6 p.m.)
- December 28 – Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq, 6:30 @ St. Joan of Arc Church
- December 30 – No Christian education
- January 3 – Deacons, 1 p.m. @ Richardsons
- 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