

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
“Growing together as children of God”  
December 24, 2017

**Prelude**

\***Gathering Songs:** “O come, all ye faithful” #212  
“Savior of the nations, come!” #173 HWB

**Musical Interlude**

\***Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: Behind the corridors of space, before the world began,  
beyond all understanding... **People: God.**

L: Fathering time, mothering creation, parenting all people...

**P: God.**

L: Waiting for the right moment, preparing the right way,  
intending the right woman... **P: God.**

L: We believe in one God,

**All: Maker and Mover of heaven and earth.**

- From *Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA 2000

\***Hymn:** “Of the Father’s love begotten” #104 HWB

**Children’s Gathering/Advent Candles:** “Come! Walk in the light”  
(*insert – scripture sheet*)

**Children’s Time:** “Woodworker’s Visit: Giving Gifts” ~ Glenn Geissinger

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

**Scripture reading:** John 1:1-18

**Sermon:** “A Cosmic Birth”

**Hymn:** “What child is this” #215 HWB

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns** (*It is a joy to welcome guests; this can  
be a time for guest introductions.*)

**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*

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*HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey Hesla: River of Gladness*  
\*Please stand if you are able

**Offering and Offertory  
Announcements**

\***Sending hymn:** “Love came down at Christmas” #208 HWB

\***Benediction / Postlude**

Community Time

**10:40: Fellowship Time**-Basement fellowship hall

**11:00:** There will be **no Christian Education** classes today and Dec 31.

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**TODAY:** 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve (John 1:1-18)

**Worship leader:** Cynthia Miller **Song leader & Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Piano:** Melissa Falb **Ushers:** Thaine Dirks

**Nursery:** Marcia Siggelkow, Mark Kaufman

**Fellowship:** Andy Martinson & Alisa Bardo Martinson

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas: A Voice in the Wilderness

**Worship leader:** Pat Eliason **Sermon:** Ry Siggelkow (John 1:19-34)

**Song leader:** Wendy Brunner

**Organ:** David Mayou

**Ushers:** Dan Gerber, Minke Sundseth

**Nursery:** Miriam Augsburg, Andi Kuenning

**Fellowship:** Arlene & Glenn Geissinger, Rachel Geissinger

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**Dec 17: Attendance: 96 Offering – Local Budget: \$2,960**  
**Organ Fund: \$300**

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**Thanksgivings:**

**Concerns:**

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*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.*

**Co-Pastors: Joetta Schlabach & Ry Siggelkow**  
**Deacons: Dan Leisen, Heather Wengerd, Shawn Englund-Helmeke,**  
**Katie Cuffey, Hermann Weinlick, Kristin Green**  
**2720 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483**  
E: [faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org) Web: [www.faithmennonite.org](http://www.faithmennonite.org)  
Wi-fi username: FMC Guest; password: peacefmc

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***FMC office hours: Dec. 25-29***

**Ry:** Tues, Thurs 10-3 **Joetta:** will be out of town this week

**Office Staff: Aimee Weigle:** Tues-Fri. 9:30-12:30

(Office closed on Christmas Day)

***Email bulletin items by Wed afternoon.*** Bulletin printed Thurs morning.

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**Prayer Request from Mennonite Mission Network:** We request prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

**Come pray for our church and community!** Parent Resource Room, 9:10-9:25 a.m. each Sunday. Also, if you would like to have someone pray with you or discuss a matter of concern please look for persons with the purple “deacon” ribbon or the green “prayer” ribbon on their name tag. They are glad to meet with you.

**Church Meetings and Events** (online calendar: [www.faithmennonite.org](http://www.faithmennonite.org))

**Dec 26** – Sunday Text Discussion, 8:30 a.m., Seward Co-op

**Dec 26** – Dec. Newsletter items due to church office by noon

**Dec 28** – Men’s Breakfast, 7 a.m., Curran’s Restaurant, Mpls.

**Jan 3** – Deacon Commission Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Weinlick home

**Jan 13** – Sewing Group, 9:30 a.m., Library

**Jan 13** – One Voice Mixed Chorus, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

**Jan 28** – Membership Sunday/Annual Budget Meeting, 11 a.m.

**Feb 9-11** – Men’s Retreat – Ely, MN

**Thanks to Heather Reinert** for the Advent visual arrangements in the sanctuary. The addition of large poinsettias today came to us as a generous gift from Carol Stoltzfus, Plants by Design, Inc, St Paul.

**From Andrew Wright, Program Director, MCC-Central States:** I am passing along this opportunity to see if there could be any connections made for supporting immigration work here in the Twin Cities. Each year MCC holds a "**40-hour immigration law" training for community members who want to become an accredited "advocate"** for people navigating the complex immigration legal process. The training prepares someone to become "accredited" and able to work in organizational or even congregational contexts, and is qualified to offer advice, help process paperwork, and in some cases, provide legal representation while under the supervision of an immigration attorney.

Currently, MCC Central States has scholarship money available to send 1 or 2 people from the Twin Cities to a training. There is a "beginner's level" and an "advanced level". Ideally, this person would be someone who could come back to the Twin Cities or within in our region and perhaps pursue a relationship with an immigration legal service provider, and/or accreditation, and provide legal advocacy in an organizational or congregational context. **Do you have ideas of people who might be able, interested, and willing to attend a training and serve in this way? If so, please contact me at:** [wriand@gmail.com](mailto:wriand@gmail.com).

**"Seeing All as God's Children," a one-hour interfaith service embracing immigrants and refugees,** will be held Sunday, Jan. 7th, at 1 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. Through testimony, prayer and music we will recognize our common bond and dignity as beloved children of God. We will celebrate a year of sanctuary and repent for the times we've failed to see each other as children of God. As we move into the 2018 MN Legislative Session and election campaign season, we will pledge to see and talk about each other as the family that we are, in both our personal conversations and public discourse. Sponsored by the Basilica, ISAAH and other faith groups.

**Considering church membership?** On January 28th, 2018, we will welcome several people who wish to transfer their church membership to FMC. If you would like to take part in the membership Sunday on January 28, please contact a pastor or deacon as soon as possible. In February, we will begin a Membership Exploration class during the education hour, for persons who would like to learn more about Anabaptist/Mennonite faith and practice. More information will be forthcoming.

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**John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**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.**