

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH  
December 6, 2015 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

**Gathering Songs** (*Christmas & advent songs*)

**Musical Interlude** ~ Phoebe Martinson / **Candle lighting**

**\*Welcome and Call to Worship:**

Leader: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.  
Open your eyes. Unstop your ears.

**People: As we prepare for your coming,  
we recognize that we are in need of change.**

L: Like the valleys and hills, the crooked paths and rough places,  
we need your mercy to transform us.

**P: We live in the shadows of apathy, greed and prejudice. May your  
refining fire burn away all that keeps us from you.**

*All: Kindle in us your merciful love, that we may be freed to worship  
you in spirit and in truth.*

**\*Hymn:** "Hark the glad sound" #184 HWB

**Old Testament reading:** Malachi 3:1-5

**Children's Gathering Song:** "O come, all ye faithful" #212 HWB, v. 1

**Children's Time:** "Mercy"

**Song:** "Joy to the world" #318 HWB, vv. 1-2

**New Testament readings:** Luke 1:68-79

**Sermon:** "Refining mercy: Bad news becomes good news"

**Communion** *All who have made a commitment to follow Christ and share in  
the life of Christ's body are invited to the table. We will gather in circles at  
the front and back tables, as the ushers direct. Please hold the elements  
until all are served. The bread is gluten free; the cup is grape juice.  
Children/youth may come to receive a grape and blessing. Please return to  
your seats by the side aisles.*

**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

**HWB: Hymnal Worship Book**  
*\*Please stand if you are able*

**STJ: Sing the Journey**

**Offering and Offertory** - "Lo, How a Rose" ~ Men's quartet

**Introduction of Guests**

*As we conclude our worship, we symbolically remove a chain from the  
Advent candle display, inviting God's liberating presence among us.  
Several light-bearers will carry the light into the world.*

**Hymn:** "Hope is a candle" v. 1 (hymnal insert)

**Removing the chains / Carrying the light**

L: Together, we take light from the second candle of Advent, a symbol  
of our need for God's mercy. God bursts into our world to help us  
break out of cycles of hatred and revenge.

**P: We can come out of the shadows and live in the light.**

**With these candles, we offer our hearts and minds to God.**

L: We carry this light as a reminder to take heart.  
God is coming to make things right.

**P: The path God reveals is mercy. We walk in forgiveness.**

*All: God, we long to be set free from all that keeps us from you.*

**Hymn:** "Hope is a candle" vv. 2, 5

**\*Blessing**

**\*Sharing the sign of peace / Postlude**

Community Time

**10:40** Fellowship time.

**11:00** Education classes for all ages.

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**TODAY:** Second Sunday of Advent

**Worship leader:** Hendricks Family

**Song leader:** Adam Nafziger

**Quartet:** David Mayou, Adam Nafziger, Rudy Okerlund, Ry Siggelkow

**Ushers:** Cori Skogerboe, Travis Lusk

**Fellowship:** Bardo Martinson

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Piano:** Melissa Falb

**Nursery:** Aine McCarthy/David Ott

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**NEXT SUNDAY:** Third Sunday of Advent (*Zephaniah 3:14-20; Phil 4:4-7*)

**Worship leader:** Okerstrom Family

**Song leader:** Karen Wiebe

**Nursery:** Katie Cuffey, Candace Lutt

**Ushers:** Glenn Geissinger, Rhonda Martin

**Sermon:** Michael Bischoff

**Piano:** Karen Zeug

**Fellowship:** Kuenning/Leisen, Vidas

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**November 29: Attendance: 77 Local Budget: \$1,486 Deacons: \$1,350**

**Thank you** to our Advent Worship Planning Group: Alisa Bardo-  
Martinson, Joetta Schlabach, Hermann Weinlick, Sandra Westby, and  
Heather Reinert who has created the visual elements.

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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.*

**Faith Mennonite Church**

**Pastor: Joetta Schlabach**

**Deacons: Thaine Dirks, Glenn Geissinger**

**Kristin Green, Melissa Hochstetler, Ry Siggelkow**

**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)

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***FMC office hours: December 7-11***

**Pastor:** Tues, Wed 9:30-4:30; On Thursday Joetta will attend the board meeting of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

**Office Staff:** Mon – Fri 9:30-12:30

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

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**Thanksgivings:** Ry Siggelkow received affirmations for two papers that he presented at the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta last week; Joetta Schlabach received a call from Paul Korn on Wednesday just after he left prison and was headed to the Twin Cities.

**Concerns:** Dan Leisen prays for the demonstrators at the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct station and for greater justice; Donna Minter will lead a STAR-Lite training in North Minneapolis this Friday; Dick Westby prays for patience and endurance for two friends: former FMC pastor Myron Schrag who has cancer and Seward neighbor Bernie Waibel who had leg surgery; Casey Englund-Helmeke's family friend Monika who has ALS, Pierre Gingerich-Boberg prays for world leaders attending the climate summit in Paris; Joetta S prays for family members struggling with addiction.

The **Seward deacon group** is headed to the **Himalayan Restaurant** (2910 E. Lake St.) **TODAY** after Sunday School! You do not need to live in the Seward neighborhood to participate! We'll carpool as much as possible.

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

**December 7** – Worship Commission, 7 p.m. Bardo-Martinson home

**December 8** – Sunday text discussion, 8:30 a.m., Seward Co-op

**December 9** – Church Council meeting, 7 p.m., chapel

**December 12** – Birthday Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Schlabach home

**December 13** – Christmas program and cookie social, 4:30 p.m.

**December 18** – Ecumenical Taizé Service, FMC, 6-supper; 7-prayer

### **Malachi 3:1-5**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

### **Luke 1:68-79**

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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.**

### **Announcements**

**Seward Art Crawl continues this afternoon**, Dec. 6, noon to 5 p.m. Eight artists plus the Somali weavers are showing and selling their work in the FMC basement. Dan Leisen's landscape photography, paintings, jewelry, ceramics and more by other artists. From **2-3 p.m.** Bret Hesla & Mary Preus of Minnesota Community Sings will lead a **family-friendly Community Sing** in the sanctuary.

**Snow is here!** We ask for volunteers to please help keep our walkways clear for Sunday morning worship services. A sign-up sheet is available today in the narthex.

**FMC Youth Group bake sale this afternoon** during the Seward Art Crawl. There will be fun craft activities for children, fresh baked goods, and pre-homemade desserts for sale in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will be donated. —*Andy Martinson*

**December Birthday Brunch, Saturday, December 12.** If you or a family member has a December birthday, Joetta Schlabach invites you (and family or friend) to a brunch at her home, 9:30-11 a.m. You can RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or by email to [jschlabach@faithmennonite.org](mailto:jschlabach@faithmennonite.org). Note any dietary restrictions.

**Holiday Caroling Sing-A-Long, Saturday, Dec. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Bruce Brunner and Donna Minter's home. Please join us for an evening of singing together for peace, hope, and joy of this Christmas Season. Please bring holiday treats and drinks to share with others. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

**FMC Christmas Choir** will hold its **first practice next Sunday, Dec. 13, 11-12 noon**, in the sanctuary. Performance will be on Dec 20, with a run-through practice before worship. Anyone out there who would like to sing just for the pure joy of being in a choir is welcome. If you would like music ahead of time, I will have parts ready to hand out on the first Sunday of December. —*Rudy Okerlund*

**Christmas Program and Cookie Social, Sunday, Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m.** The Sunday School department is preparing for our annual Christmas program and you can too! Everyone is invited to bring some treats (cookies, fruit, cheese and crackers) for a social time following the program. Hosting group is: Skogerboe, Siggelkow, & Hendricks.

**Ecumenical Taizé Service at FMC, Friday, Dec. 18.** As we near the darkest day of the year we will have an opportunity to join with friends from neighboring churches in a contemplative sung prayer service. We will share a simple soup and bread meal at 6 p.m., followed by **prayer at 7 p.m.** A sign-up sheet is available to indicate if you would like to contribute food for the meal or help with set-up or clean-up. Thank you!

**Come pray for our church** and community during this time of change and leadership transition. 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.