



First Sunday after Christmas

Welcome to our Sunday worship service! It's our hope that this outdoor service of lessons and carols will offer us a time to worship as we sing together, something we haven't done in quite a long time! Let us join our hearts and voices as we celebrate Christ's presence here with us! Immanuel!

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Call to Worship and Invocation

Adapted from Psalm 148:1-4, 13

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

People: Praise the Lord in the heights!

Leader: Praise the Lord, all God's angels; praise the Lord, all God's host!

People: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

People: Praise the name of the Lord; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

All: Praise the Lord!

Carols of praise

Good Christian friends rejoice

HWB 210

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are bless'd forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Nun Ist Sie Erschienen

handout

Morning Prayer and Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Isaiah's prophecy about the coming King

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol/Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

HWB 178

Come, thou long expected Jesus!
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come, thou universal Savior;
come redeem the human race.
Life and joy spring from thy favor,
cheer each soul in need of grace.
Still we wait for thine appearing
make our senseless struggles cease.
Guide us from our weary wand'ring
into paths of perfect peace.

Mary's Song of Praise

Luke 1:46-55

Carol/Hymn *My soul proclaims with wonder* HWB 181
Refrain: *My soul proclaims with wonder
the greatness of the Lord,
rejoicing in God's greatness
my spirit is restored.* God's mercy shields the faithful
and saves them from defeat,
with strength that turns to scatter
the proud in their conceit.

To me has God shown favor,
to one the world thought frail,
and ev'ry age will echo
the angel's first "All hail."
The mighty have been vanquished,
the lowly lifted up.
The hungry find abundance,
the rich, an empty cup.

The birth of the long-awaited child Luke 2:1-7

Carol/Hymn *Love came down at Christmas* HWB 208
Love came down at Christmas, Worship we the Godhead, Love shall be our token;
love all lovely, love divine. love incarnate, love divine. love be yours and love be mine,
Love was born at Christmas, Worship we our Jesus, love to God and neighbor,
star and angels gave the sign. what shall be our sacred sign? love for prayer and gift and sign.
Refrain: *Sing noel, sing noel, sing noel.*

Angels and Shepherds proclaim Jesus' birth Luke 2:8-14

Carols *Angels we have heard on high* HWB 197
Angels we have heard on high, Shepherds, why this jubilee?
singing sweetly through the night, Why these songs of happy cheer?
and the mountains in reply What great brightness did you see?
echoing their brave delight. What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hark! The herald angels sing HWB 201
Hark! The herald angels sing, Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
"Glory to the new-born King! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, Light and life to all he brings,
God and sinners reconciled!" ris'n with healing in his wings.
Joyful all ye nations, rise, Mild he lays his glory by,
join the triumph of the skies, born that we no more may die,
with th'angelic host proclaim born to raise us from the earth,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem." born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King." "Glory to the new-born King."

Benediction John 1:1-5, 9-10, 12-14 Pastor Lois

***All: The Word became flesh and made a home among us.
We have seen God's glory, full of grace and truth.***

Sending Hymn *O Come, All ye faithful* HWB 212
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him ... Christ the Lord.

This service made use of resources and ideas from *Leader* (MennoMedia), Fall 2020 as well as from previous years' Lessons and Carols services.

Special thanks to Kevin and Bonnie Gaeddert family, Duane, Karen, Kyle, and Justine Unruh, Steve Unruh, Delton Voth, and the AMC Covid Task Force.

Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday and Pastor Caleb will be preaching.

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We celebrate with Marlin and Sheri Janzen at the wedding of their son Evan, to Steph Khair Allah last Friday, December, 18 in Santa Barbara, CA. Friends and family were present on zoom. Both Evan and Steph are doctoral candidates, he in Bioengineering and she in Biology. They hope to complete their work in Spring, 2021. Congratulations and prayers for God's blessings to Evan and Steph in this new chapter.
- ❖ Congratulations to Eulalia Schroeder who is a great-grandmother! Larry and Nancy's son Lance and his wife Liz welcomed baby Claire Elizabeth on December 18. They live in Marysville, KS where Lance works at the John Deere dealership. We thank God for this child's safe and happy arrival.
- ❖ We pray for healing and perseverance for Mary Lou Unrau. She's recovering from a broken bone in her left leg. We pray for God's comfort and presence for both Mary Lou and Glen.
- ❖ We pray for Joyce Bergen who will have a bronchoscopy Monday. We pray for wisdom for doctors as they seek the best way to care for Joyce's health and wellbeing.
- ❖ We pray for a spirit of hopefulness at the close of an unusual and challenging year and the beginning of a new year in which to follow Christ's light
- ❖ We continue to pray for those navigating challenging medical diagnoses or treatment.
- ❖ We pray for those feeling the darkness of shortened days, colder days, and concerning pandemic news. May we carry one another's burdens and find hope in our faith in Christ.
- ❖ We give thanks for the alternative ways we are finding to still connect with family and friends over the holidays.

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If you would appreciate a porch visit or phone call from one of the pastors or deacons, please feel free to contact us!

Coming Events

Today, Sunday, December 27	11:00 am	Outdoor Lessons and Carols Service
Monday, December 28 – Friday, January 1		Church office closed
Sunday, January 3	10:00 am	Worship Service via Zoom
Monday, January 4	4:30 pm	Covid Taskforce meeting
Wednesday, January 6	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees

As you have changes for the 2021 Yearbook (addresses/cell or land line phone numbers/email addresses, etc.) turn them in to the church office. All changes are due **January 29, 2021**. This includes new board positions for the coming year.

Current and upcoming devotionals (*Upper Room & Rejoice!*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Note of Thanks: Heart-felt thanks for the Christmas cards, greetings and gifts! We appreciate the many expressions of best wishes and blessings. We are honored to be your pastors and we pray for a blessed and healthy new year for each of you. ~Pastor Caleb and Pastor Lois

A special thank you to the individuals who created and delivered Christmas sacks to the children!

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Give thanks for God's faithfulness to WDC and its congregations over this past year, and pray for vision, courage and hope as we enter a new year.

Mennonite Mission Network

Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer are in the North American portion of their two-way mission. They will not be able to return to Ecuador in January, as they normally do, due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for them as they communicate electronically with congregations in Ecuador and the United States.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

A Christmas full of light and love to all of you! The Camp Mennoscah staff and Board of Directors prays for you to find Christ's love and joy during this not-as-usual Christmas season. May you find hope, joy, and peace in your celebrations!

Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful space for families and groups needing space to spread out! Facilities for differently sized groups are available with a variety of gathering areas. Trails and fields are waiting to be hiked and used for fun activities, too! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org to reserve. You are invited to enjoy this sacred space!

A few extra Camp Mennoscah hoodies are available! (Adult sizes only.) Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org Grab yours before they're gone!

Thank you, Allen and Janet! After 40 years of dedicated service as program directors at Camp Mennoscah, Allen Jantz and Janet McGillivray are retiring. We know them in part for their wonderfully caring and carefully planned camp week and for Allen's lunchtime skits and Janet's lanyard-making. We celebrate these years shared with Camp Mennoscah and wish them the best in new adventures! See you at Camp Mennoscah again soon, Allen and Janet!

Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff positions are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at www.campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps!

Mennonite Church USA

SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. This program is flexibly designed for retirees, families and adults over 25. Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more!

Western District Conference

We invite you to share a gift with WDC during this season to help our congregations **Witness** & invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, **Dwell** in just & loving relationships, and **Connect** to God's mission in the world. Your generous gifts are appreciated as we look toward our fiscal year end on January 31 and meeting our budget goal! You may make an online contribution [HERE](#) or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

The WDC office and Resource Library remains closed due to Covid-19 precautions, and staff members are working from their homes. Note that staff will take holiday and vacation time December 24 through January 3, 2021, and will be available beginning January 4.

Save the date: WDC Annual Assembly will be July 30-Aug 1, 2021, in a hybrid model with the possibility of both virtual and in-person activities. More information to come!

Bethel College

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" through Jan. 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, "Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads," created from the museum's permanent exhibit "Of Land and People." **The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri (early close at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 31); 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays and major holidays (Friday, Dec. 25, Friday, Jan. 1).** Admission to the "Crossroads" exhibit is free on Saturdays.

Mennonite Church USA

Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role? Become a unit leader for Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17-20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, who are at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the Service Adventure household. Learn more by contacting SusanN@MennoniteMission.net.

Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term. Serve, learn and grow in faith with a community of your peers! Visit MennoniteMission.net/MVS to learn more!

Mennonite Central Committee

Area Director for Central Southern Asia: MCC is seeking applicants for the position of [Area Director for Central Southern Asia](#). The Area Director will be responsible to coordinate MCC's resources in impactful and mutually transformative programming. For more information and/or to apply, please visit serve.mcc.org.

MCC Representative for Haiti: Are you looking for opportunities to use your leadership skills? The [MCC Representative for Haiti](#) provides programmatic direction to the work of MCC in Haiti within the MCC Latin America/Caribbean region. This position provides team leadership and support for all MCC workers in Haiti. For more information and/or to apply, please visit service.mcc.org.

Canner Operator : MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two-year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out mcc.org/canning for details!

MCC Comforter Blitz update: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, and batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at katemast@mcc.org, or 316.804.8432.