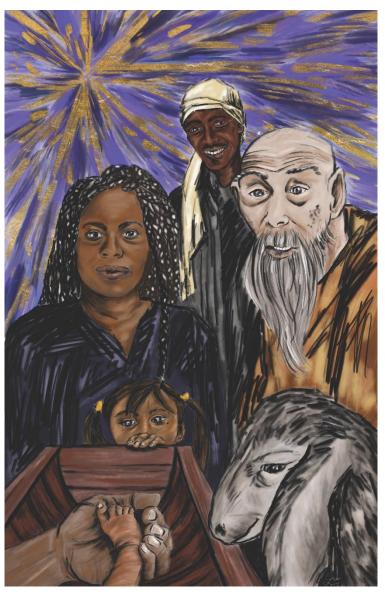
# Christmas Eve

## Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church December 24, 2023 ~ 7:00 pm



Prelude

Jason and Renae Peters, piano

Christmas Music ~Norman Dello Joio O. Come All Ye Faithful The Holy Infant's Lullaby God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen A Christmas Carol Silent Night Bright Star (Light of the World) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Welcome Pastor Lois Harder

Away in a Manger (VT 257) 2-Year Olds & Congregation Song **Poem** See Baby Jesus 3-and 4-Year Olds Song Way Down in Bethlehem SonShine Singers Poem The Shapes of Christmas Kindergarten 1st - 5th Grades If I Am... Poem

\*Congregational Carol Singing Good Christian Friends, Rejoice VT 261 VT 240 Joy to the World

**Sharing Time with Children** 

VT 241

Lynel Unrau

\*Congregational Carol Singing O Come. All Ye Faithful Nun Ist Sie Erschienen **SWJ 30** 

Nun Ist Sie Erschienen is a traditional favorite Christmas hymn in this congregation. It harkens back from when there were one-room school houses in the area and each school had an annual Christmas Eve program. This German hymn was often sung at the program by everyone in attendance. We continue this tradition. You are welcome to sing the hymn in English or German.

#### Hope Makes Room for Love **Bv Karen Unruh** Directed by Braden Unruh and Karen Unruh

Kids Praise O Come, O Come, Immanuel My Soul Proclaims with Wonder Kids Praise Julianna Schrag, vocal solo

O Little Town of Bethlehem Grace Meier, flute Eric, Jacob, and Timothy Schrag Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Angels We Have Heard on High Kids Praise

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What Child Is This Kids Praise

#### Candle Lighting Service

John 1:1-5, 10-14 Julianna Schrag, Nathaniel Schmucker Silent Night, Holy Night VT 244 Congregational Song

Poem What If God Had Waited?

**Benediction** Pastor Lois

Postlude Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~Leavitt Jason Peters

\*All who are able are invited to stand

VT - Voices Together Hymnal (purple) SWJ - Sing With Joy (red)

Please leave the candles and candle holders in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or in the lobbies as you leave.

All children through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas sack after the service.

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2-Year Olds: Cameron Esau, Nolan Miller

3-Year Olds: Elliot Hiebert, Wyatt Hiebert, Myles Unruh

4-Year Olds: Logan Unrau

Kindergarten: Silas Combs, Kennedy Esau, Emmett Miller, Lillian Unruh,

Greyson Voth

1st Grade: Ellie Unrau, Lillian Voth 2nd Grade: Braxton Church, Jack Maley

3rd Grade: Celia Peters

4th Grade: Amilea Hartvickson, Paige Webber

5th Grade: Elisabeth Kitto, Gage Maley, Noah O'Neill

### Junior High Youth (6th - 8th Grades) & Congregational Members

Narrator: Julianna Schrag
Gabriel: Eddie Gaeddert
Mary: Delaney Duerksen
Innkeeper: Travis Duerksen

Innkeeper's Wife: Erica Stoltzfus

Joseph: Eddie Gaeddert Shepherd 1: Eric Schrag Shepherd 2: Timothy Schrag Shepherd 3: Jacob Schrag Angel 1: Rosie Gaeddert Angel 2: Bella O'Neill Angel 3: Myra Peters

Baby Jesus: Luka Duerksen

Magi: Grace Meier, Natalie Church, Aida Hartvickson

#### Assisting Children's Sunday School & Midweek Teachers:

Janice (Funk) Voth, Susan Nafziger, Sandy Duerksen, Maryanne Esau, Laura Voth, Radene Unruh, Justine Unruh, Kyle Unruh, Bryant Miller,

Chrystiana Miller, Janine Peters, Pat Schmidt, Aileen Esau, Laura Unrau, Julianna Schrag, Emma Schroeder, Mallory Schroeder, Emmalyn Schroeder, Bonnie Gaeddert, Kevin Gaeddert

Christmas Eve Program Committee: Aileen Esau, Bonnie Gaeddert,

Susan Nafziger, Karen Unruh

Piano/Organ: Jason Peters

Guitar: Kyle Unruh

Song Leader: Renae Peters

**Worship Technology:** DJ Flaming, Myron Goertzen, Steve Unruh, DeAlan Unrau, Steve Goertzen, Delton Voth, Colby Nafziger

Greeters: North - Dwight & Tammy Flaming; South - John & Jenny Fast

Cover Image: God Couldn't Wait by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Inspired by Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

#### What If God Had Waited?

What if God had waited
For Mary to be wed,
For Herod to relent,
For a legitimate birthing bed?

And the politicians agreed?

What if God had waited Until the powerful promoted peace,

What if God had waited
For a plan with no risk of failure,
For a place that felt safe and secure?

What if God had waited
For the anxious to find rest,
For the cynic to know hope,
For the brokenhearted to be whole?
For the wars to cease,
For the violence to end,
For the fears to pass,
For the weapons to be banned?

What if God had waited
For the earth to heal,
For the laws to change,
For every life to matter the same,
For the addict to be freed from shame,
For the refugees to not be blamed?

What if God had waited Until all was calm, All was bright, For a future that might Never come?

What if God had waited?

But God couldn't wait.

God couldn't wait to be love known in flesh and bone –
And neither should we.

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