

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

Song *Away in a Manger* (VT 257) 2-Year Olds & Congregation

Poem *See Baby Jesus* 3-and 4-Year Olds

Song *Way Down in Bethlehem* SonShine Singers

Poem *The Shapes of Christmas* Kindergarten

Poem *If I Am...* 1st – 5th Grades

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

Sharing Time with Children Lynel Unrau

***Congregational Carol Singing** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 241
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

By Karen Unruh

Directed by Braden Unruh and Karen Unruh

O Come, O Come, Immanuel Kids Praise
My Soul Proclaims with Wonder Kids Praise

O Little Town of Bethlehem Julianna Schrag, vocal solo
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Grace Meier, flute
Angels We Have Heard on High Eric, Jacob, and Timothy Schrag
What Child Is This Kids Praise
Kids Praise

Candle Lighting Service

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

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 12th grade are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas sack after the service.

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?

What if God had waited
Until the powerful promoted peace,
And the politicians agreed?

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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We wish everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas Day!