

Sermon: *Be Ready* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding

Song of response: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*..... H 178

Pastoral prayer

Sending

Benediction: Come! Walk in the ways of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from despair.
He will show us the way.

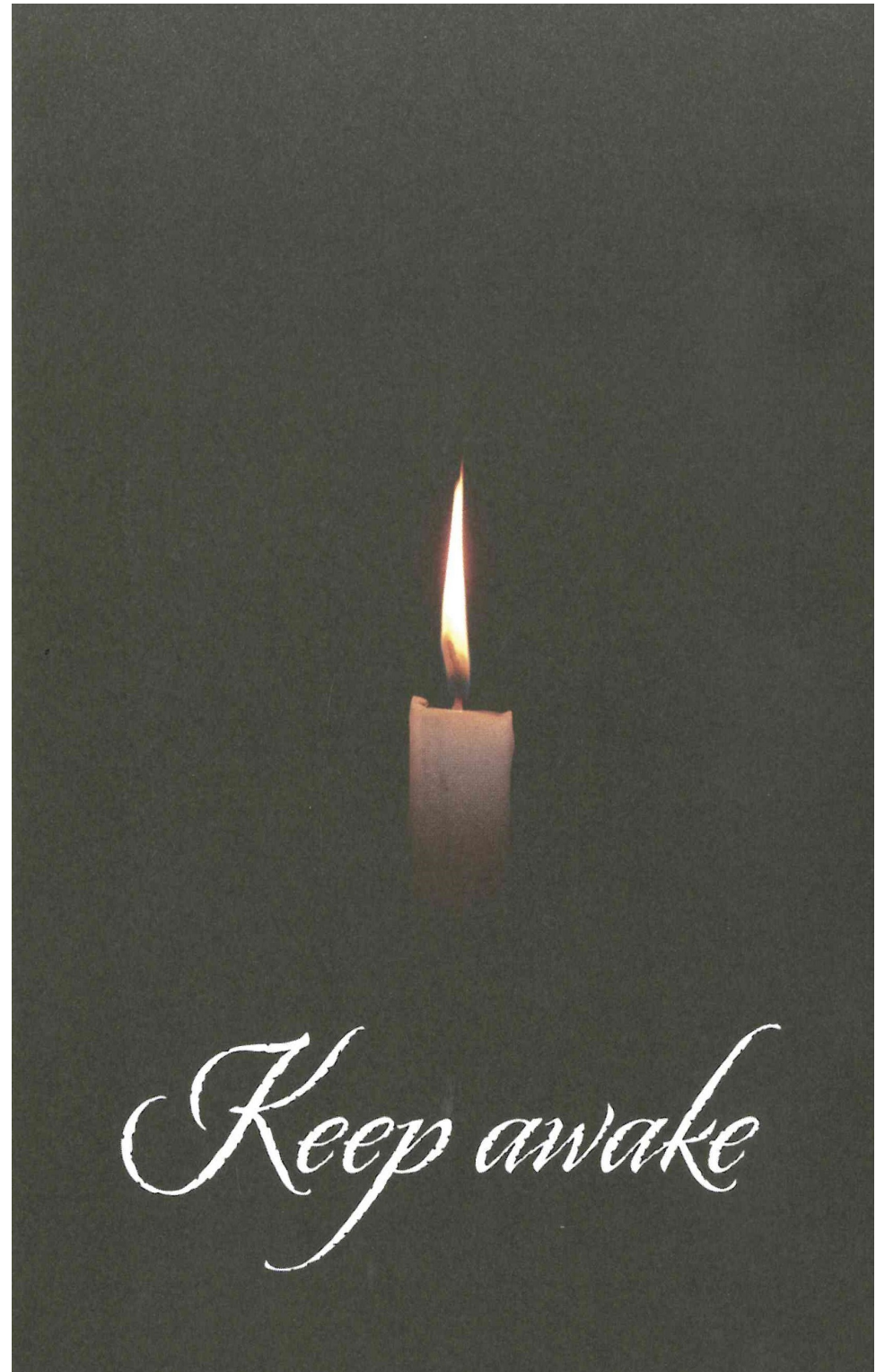
Postlude

*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book **CS denotes Companion Songbook
Chorister: Kay Schroeder; HAT: Carol Gerbrand, Renee Hamm, Chris Weaver, Brent Voran
Ushers: Alan Entz, Ryan Nye, Jan Groves, Allen Schmidt
Childcare: Michael or Pamela Garcia, Lia Groves
Audio Tech: Larry Becker Video/Lighting Tech: Tyler Shelly
Visuals: Carol Hiebert

Visual art for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany:

The Christmas Star

Long ago the wise men saw His star
So they came to worship Him from afar.
So when this star I often see
I know to worship God Who created me.
God alone I love and obey
I follow Him Who came on Christmas Day!



God's peace is at hand. Come, walk in the way of God's heart

.....
1st Sunday of Advent: November 27, 2016

Gathering

Prelude Jyl Ewy, pianist

The work of the people (announcements)

Call to worship..... Pastor Kay Schroeder

Leader: In the nighttime of despair, we are filled with doubt.

People: **We are overwhelmed with busyness
and the compulsion to do.
We have lost our way.**

Leader: The night is almost over.
We are emerging from our doubt.

People: **O God, show us the way of your heart.**

Leader: Come quickly, to show us.

All: **The dawn is nigh. Show us the way.**

Opening prayer

Lighting the Advent candle Sarah Koehn

Songs of faith: *Come, Light of the world*
O come, O come, Immanuel..... *H 172
(stanzas 1,2,5,6)

Praising

Advent reading: Psalm 122.....Renee , Ashlynn, Madelyn Hamm, readers

Song of faith: *Longing for light*

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Bryan Kehr

Song of faith: *Jesus, name above all names* **CS 31

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Confessing/Reconciling

Advent drama: *A Father's Agony* by Ken Frey

Participants: Father—Ken Frey; Mary—Penny Dorado

Prayer of confession

Leader: God of peace,

People: **we yearn to walk in your way
but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain.
Save us, Lord,
from the pride and foolishness
of choosing our own course,
that we may humbly and confidently
follow your lead,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Words of assurance

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life,
God holds you close in love.
Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide,
God's compassion is your strength.
God's love is your redemption.

ALL: **Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!**

Hearing God's Word

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 2:1-5Chris Weaver

New Testament reading: Matthew 24:36-44 Carol Gerbrand

February 5, Marla Schmidt from EMM will be speaking about Refugee work in Wichita and Hesston. For more information on the curriculum see: mennoniteusa.org/resource/radical-hospitality-core-curriculum/. This multimedia class will be held in Fellowship Hall, is open to all, and will have conversation facilitated by members of the FMC Refugee group. Please RSVP to Andrea Regier if you or your class plan to attend.

The Property Committee needs your help to maintain our facility! There are several projects that need completing and we want you to have the opportunity to help. We need help with raking leaves around the church building and in the flower beds, painting the walls and ceiling in the balcony class room, and installing pipe insulation and replacing a few ceiling tiles in the Jr. High room. Contact Jordan Miller, Alan Entz, Clint Litsey, Ryan Nye, or Rod Schmidt for more information.

Prayer is one of God's gifts to us. If you would like to pray in a set-aside room for that purpose, the prayer room is available whenever the church is open in Room #113. The weekly prayer and praise notes can remind you of some of the situations needing intercession.

Community Announcements

Come get some Christmas shopping done at Kidron Bethel Village's 10th Annual Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, December 3, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Kidron Bethel Village is located at 3001 Ivy Drive in North Newton. All proceeds will benefit residents who are unable to cover the full cost of their care.

The Newton Et Cetera Shop is seeking new volunteers! We have a fabulous crew at work every day but need a little extra help. If you (or your Sunday school class or your small group) have a Saturday a month to help at the store, please let us know! If you have a Monday morning to spare, you're welcome to join our volunteer rug crew working at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton. Our next "New Volunteer Orientation" is Tuesday, December 6, 6:30-7:30 PM, at the store. Please call if you'd like to sign up: 316-283-9461. Thank you for 40 years of support for the Newton Et Cetera Shop and its mission!

Third annual Ten Thousand Village Fair Trade International Gift Festival—Mark your calendars! Invite a friend! Prepare your Fair Trade Holiday Gift List! The event takes place Friday and Saturday, December 2-3; and Friday and Saturday, December 9-10; 10:00 AM-6:00 PM at the Western District Conference office, 2500 North Main, North Newton.

The annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, will be on Wednesday, November 30, 11:00 AM, at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores will be provided.

Everyone is invited to attend this year's Winter Luminary Walk, focusing on the theme, "The Prairie Sleeps," at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The Luminary Walk will be from 5:30 to 8:00 PM on November 25 and 26, and December 2 and 3. Admission to the event is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 15, or advanced tickets can be purchased at dyckarboretum.org or at the Arboretum office for \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 15. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by hundreds of luminaries, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Performances by local groups will include the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts Dance Troupe on Friday, November 25, Dave Anderson on hammered dulcimer on Saturday, November 26, Sound of the Heartland Women's Ensemble at 7:00 PM, Friday, December 2, and the Book of JEBB at 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are also still needed! Call 620-327-8127 or visit www.dyckarboretum.org for more information.

The Bethel College Women's Association Council needs your help in providing Christmas cookies, peppernuts, cinnamon rolls, candy, and other Christmas baked goods to sell at the 5 Places of Christmas, December 3. This year, we will be joining with the Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts. Please bring your goodies to the Kauffman Museum on Friday, December 2, during museum hours or Saturday morning 8:00-10:00 AM.

The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers concert will be Sunday, December 4, 3:00 PM at Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 N Anderson Ave., Newton. A freewill offering will be taken for the Treble Clef Scholarship Fund. All are invited!

Everence Financial will present an informational seminar, *Creating your retirement income strategy*, at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 12. Everence Financial Advisor Robert Wall will speak about having enough for retirement, making your savings last and coping with the financial markets. There will also be time for your questions. The seminars will take place at Everence Financial, 371 N. Old Highway 81, Hesston. To reserve your spot, contact Darlene Buller at (620) 327-4043, (877) 467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

Are you looking to do "something different" this holiday season? Consider being a Holiday Host Family for an International Student! Hesston College has several students from other countries who need a place to stay when the dorms are closed for Christmas break. This is a fun way to get to know international student(s) who are part of the Hesston College family...and to share your holiday traditions with them. Host families are needed from December 16 through January 10. Even if your family is only available part of the time, you may still be able to help. If you have any questions or are interested in being a host family please contact Carlota Ponds, Director of International Student Services, at 620-327-8210 or carlota.ponds@hesston.edu.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 27—First Sunday of Advent—God’s Peace

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
2:00 PM Messiah practice

Monday, November 28

Jail Ministry: Gary Moore

Wednesday, November 30

7:00 PM Youth Group
6:45 PM Choir

Thursday, December 1

7:00 PM Nurture Commission

Sunday, December 4—Second Sunday of Advent—God’s Harmony

7:45 AM Outreach, Missions, and Peace Commission
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
2:00 PM Messiah Practice

Upcoming Worship Services

December 11—Third Sunday of Advent—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Healing
December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Restoration

WELCOME TO EVERYONE who has come to worship and especially to those who are here for the first time. May you experience the loving embrace of God today. Nursery Care, infants to age 2, is provided during the worship service in the nursery located at the back of the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children ages 2-4 during the worship service in Room 223. If you need help finding your way, ask an usher at the door. We would be glad to help you!

“Meet the Congregation” displays now feature Sammie, Robin, Savannah, Tjaden, and Andrew Simmons; Irene Schmidt; and Harland and Oneta Unruh. Take a look at the display cases by the Library and Court Area and learn more about each family.

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—222; Visitors—2
- Sunday School—175

Offering: Last week’s offering for Local Missions was \$5,002. The offering for December 4 is for Western District Conference.

THANK YOU Janet Franz and Cindy Unruh for sharing your creativity and passion of visual art through giving leadership to decorating the church for the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season!

MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL TODAY: This afternoon at 2:00 PM is the second choir rehearsal for singing Handel’s Messiah. Everyone ages 14 and older is invited and encouraged to participate! Books may be checked out or purchased for \$10. Questions? Contact Pastor Kay.

Please note change of date: A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, December 11. The meeting will be held immediately following the worship service. A vote will be taken on adopting a new vision statement and a constitutional amendment to change our mission statement. Please check your church mailboxes for more information on the constitutional amendment.

Winter clothing items needed: The children’s Christmas tree in the court area is the place to leave hats, scarves, mittens, gloves or socks to donate to the Salvation Army. Let’s cover the tree!

The Sr. High Youth Group will gather Wednesday, November 30, at 7:00 PM in the Youth Room.

There will be a six-week Sunday School class open to all called *Radical Hospitality: Responding to the Issue of Immigration* on December 4, 11, 18 and January 8, 15, and 22. Also, on January 29, we will be talking about Refugee work in Turkey and on



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