

# Responding to God's Word

**Song of faith:** *Welcome to Our World*

**Pastoral prayer** ..... Pastor Kay Schroeder

## Sending

**Sending song:** *Go tell it on the mountain*

**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

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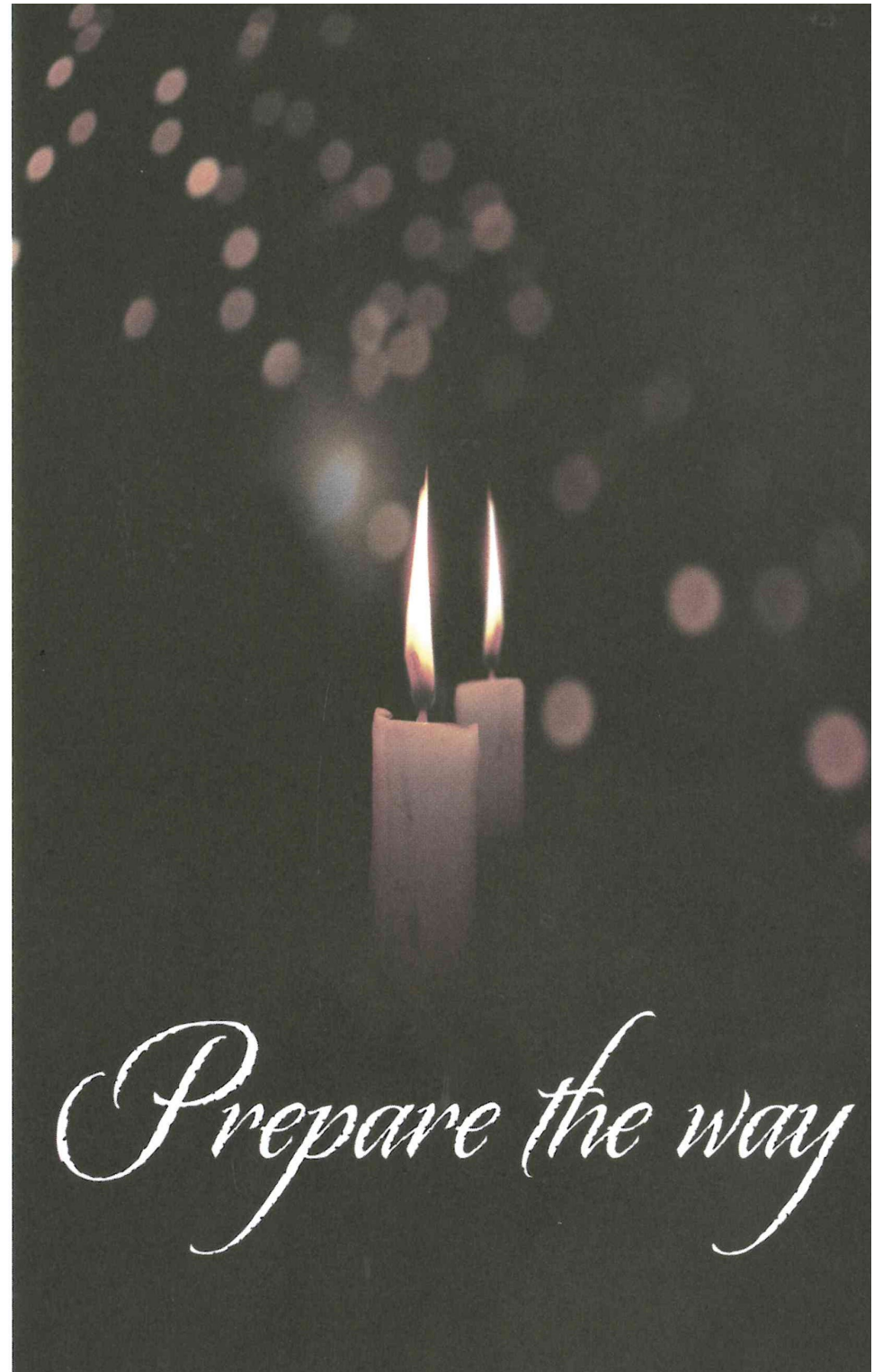
\*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book    \*\*CS denotes Companion Songbook  
Chorister: Carol Entz; HAT: Janet Franz, Michelle and Tim Regier, Bryan Kehr  
Musicians: Ben Regier, Dwayne Abrahams, Ken Regier, Tim Regier, Daryl Unruh  
Ushers: Rick Ortman, Rod Schmidt, Donnie Kingsley, Allen Schmidt  
Childcare: Phil and Linda Gaertner, Callie Knopp  
Audio Tech: Ron Bachman    Video/Lighting Tech: Eric Murphy  
Visuals: Carol Hiebert, Janet Franz, Cindy Unruh

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

.....  
2nd Sunday of Advent: December 4, 2016

## Gathering

**Prelude** ..... Nora Miller, pianist

**The work of the people (announcements)**

**Call to worship**..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

Leader: In the nighttime of fear,  
we build walls and fences.

**People: Rather than showing hospitality,  
we keep the stranger away.  
We forget the truth  
that God's love is for everyone.**

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

**All: Come quickly, show us.**

**Opening prayer**

**Lighting the Advent candle** .....Brooklynn Black

**Songs of faith:** *Come, Light of the world*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* ..... \*H 211

## Praising

**Advent 2 reading:** Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 ..... David Shelly, reader

**Sung response:** *Alleluia* ..... H 101

**Songs of faith:** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus  
We Come*

**Greet one another; children come forward**

**Children's focus** .....Stefanie Knopp

**Offering:** Western District Conference

**Offertory**

(Please pass the welcome pads)

## Confessing/Reconciling

**Old Testament reading:** Matthew 3:1-12 ..... Paul Schrag

**Prayer of confession**

Leader: God of harmony,

**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 11:1-10

**New Testament reading:** Romans 15:4-13

**Special music:** *Light of the Stable* by Rhymer

**Sermon:** *Prepare the Way* ..... Pastor Anita Kehr

invitation is extended to YOUNG ADULTS and COLLEGE STUDENTS to join the conversation and eat some great food!

**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!

**Harvest of Love**—The Salvation Army invites you to join in their annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. Items always needed are macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, and soups. A box is available in the Court Area to collect nonperishable items. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to "Harvest of Love" and place it in the offering. The last day we will be collecting items will be Sunday, December 18.

**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 classroom, 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.

#### Community Announcements

**The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers** concert will be today, 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!

**The fourth concert** of the 2016-17 Prairie Window Concert Series, featuring classically-trained folk/newgrass trio, Harpeth Rising, will be today, 4:00 PM, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and good food in a prairie garden setting. Tickets are \$20 adults/\$10 kids, plus tax. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. Purchase tickets online.

**The annual Lighting of the Green** at Bethel College will be today at 8:00 PM.

**SR. HIGH YOUTH** *Expressing love of God in worship  
Experiencing love in community  
Extending God's love to the world*

**THIS WEEK!**

**TODAY—Sunday, Dec. 4**

» 9:15 am—Sunday School

» 10:30 am—Worship

» 6:06 pm—Supper, worship, Bible study @ Carol's

**Wednesday, Dec. 7 @ 7:00 pm— YOUTH GROUP**



Come for Christmas, a little different! BRING FRIENDS!

**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 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.

**The Kidron Bethel Parkinson's Support Group** will meet December 6, 2:00 PM in Menno Hall. Hannah McBeth, Director of Dining Services at Kidron Bethel, will share nutrition information as it relates to Parkinson's Disease.

**Third annual Ten Thousand Villages 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 9-10; 10:00 AM-6:00 PM at the Western District Conference office, 2500 North Main, North Newton.

**The McPherson Community Brass Choir**, under the direction of Jerry Toews, will be giving a Christmas Brass concert in the historic Alexanderwohl Church on Sunday, December 11, 7:00 PM. Alexanderwohl Church is located one mile north of Goessel on K-15 highway.

**You're invited to the MCC Christmas Soiree!** Please join MCC for a delicious and fun holiday celebration on Thursday, December 15, 5:00-7:00 PM at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th). At 6:00 PM we will hear from MCC International Volunteer Exchange Participants about the work they are doing in Kansas and to hear about Christmas traditions from their home countries of Laos and Egypt. Good food, live music and great fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

**Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy.** Be challenged. Learn some things. Teach some things. Spend a year living somewhere that you never dreamed you'd go. Start now at [salt.mcc.org](http://salt.mcc.org), find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and apply! Contact [sharonnelson@mcc.org](mailto:sharonnelson@mcc.org) for more information.

**Each year, the Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship**, or ICPF, holds its annual conference at one of the Mennonite or affiliated colleges or universities in North America. This year, the conference will be at Bethel College, February 10-12, 2017. Since 1953, ICPF has aimed to "promote the cause of biblical nonresistance by providing various channels for sharing ideas among college peace groups," according to its constitution. ICPF conference participants will work in small groups and through plenary discussions with several leaders in racial, environmental and LGBT justice to examine how these affect our church institutions. If you would be willing to donate snacks or breakfast items to supplement the conference's food needs please contact Jacob Miller ([jacobmiller@bethelks.edu](mailto:jacobmiller@bethelks.edu) or 785-477-1820), or the conference coordinator, Sharon Kniss ([skniss@bethelks.edu](mailto:skniss@bethelks.edu)), with questions or for more information.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### 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
- 6:06 PM Youth Group Bible Study—Carol Entz’s house

### Monday, December 5

Jail Ministry: Gary Moore

### Wednesday, December 7

- 6:30 PM Christmas Eve practice
- 7:00 PM Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Membership Exploration Class
- 7:15 PM Messiah practice
- 8:00 PM Choir

### Thursday, December 8

7:00 PM Church Board

### Sunday, December 11—Third Sunday of Advent—God’s Healing

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Potluck—FH
- 2:00 PM Messiah Practice

### Upcoming Worship Services

- December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Restoration
- December 25—Christmas Day—The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—Jesus is Born
- January 1—New Year’s —The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God’s heart—God’s Hope

**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 Chris and Stephanie Weaver and family, Tim and Anne Wiens and family, and Arlen and Carol Wiens. 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—225; Visitors—5
- Sunday School—188

**Offering:** Last week’s offering for Local Missions was \$8,673. The offering for December 11 is for Local Mission.

**Local Missions update**—We are needing an estimated \$56,000 to cover the remaining expenses through December 31. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to give the month of December. Your offering is greatly appreciated!!

~Stewardship Committee

**MESSIAH CHOIR REHEARSAL TODAY:** It is not too late to participate in the community choir for the worshipful presentation of the Christmas section of Handel’s Messiah. Come to the sanctuary this afternoon at 2:00 PM for a fabulous time of singing and fellowship. Everyone age 14 and older are invited and encouraged to participate! Questions? Contact Pastor Kay.

**The Christian Co-Workers Sunday School class** will be having their Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 6, 12 noon, in the Fellowship Hall.

**This Wednesday, December 7,** is the first Christmas Eve rehearsal! Children (Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), adults, Sunday School teachers, please arrive in the sanctuary promptly at 6:30 PM, and the rehearsal will conclude promptly at 7:15 PM. Thank you for your participation!

**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.

**December Seconds @ FIRST Potluck—Sunday, December 11.** Everyone is encouraged to gather around the tables following the worship service for conversation. A special



**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
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<b>Pastoral Team</b>	
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