

Advent 2: Let it be so

Sunday, December 10, 2017

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Gathering

Prelude (starts at 10:20 AM) Amanda Rempel, organist
Lo, how a rose Gordon Young
Comfort, comfort, O my people Raymond Haan
Of the Father's love begotten John Leavitt

Choral introit: *Advent Celebration* Jon Paige

The work of the people (announcements)
(Please pass the welcome pads)

Call to worship Clarence Rempel, worship leader
Leader: Awake!
The invitation to carry light comes from the voice who cries
out for a smooth way through wild places.
All: O God, your call is uncomfortable.
**How can we who are weak remove the rough and rugged
places?**

Lighting the Advent candle Mateya and Reese McCord
Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.
All: Lead us into your presence so all can see your way.
Leader: Let it be so.

Opening prayer

Praising

Songs of faith: *Everlasting God*
Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Greeting one another; children come forward

Children's focus Clint Litsey

Choral anthem: *Still, Still, Still* Norman Luboff

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory: *Savior of the nations, come with Pat a pan* Hal Hopson

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15

Sermon: *Seeking a Silent Night* Pastor Joel Schroeder

Responding to God's Word

Song of response: *Silent night, holy night* *H 193
verses 1 and 3

Confession
(pause for silence)
Words of assurance

Song of faith: *Comfort, comfort, O my people* H 176

Pastoral prayer Pastor Anita Kehr

Sending

Song of benediction: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Sending blessing

Postlude: *Toccata on "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"* Edward Good

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 10—Advent 2—*Let it be so*

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Seconds @First Potluck—FH
- 4:04 PM Youth Group Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Jr. High Christmas party—FH

Tuesday, December 12

- 12:00 PM Christian Co-Workers Lunch—FH
- 7:00 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission

Wednesday, December 13

- 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Practice (K-5 grade)
- 7:00 PM Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Capital Fund “Next Phase” Committee

Thursday, December 14

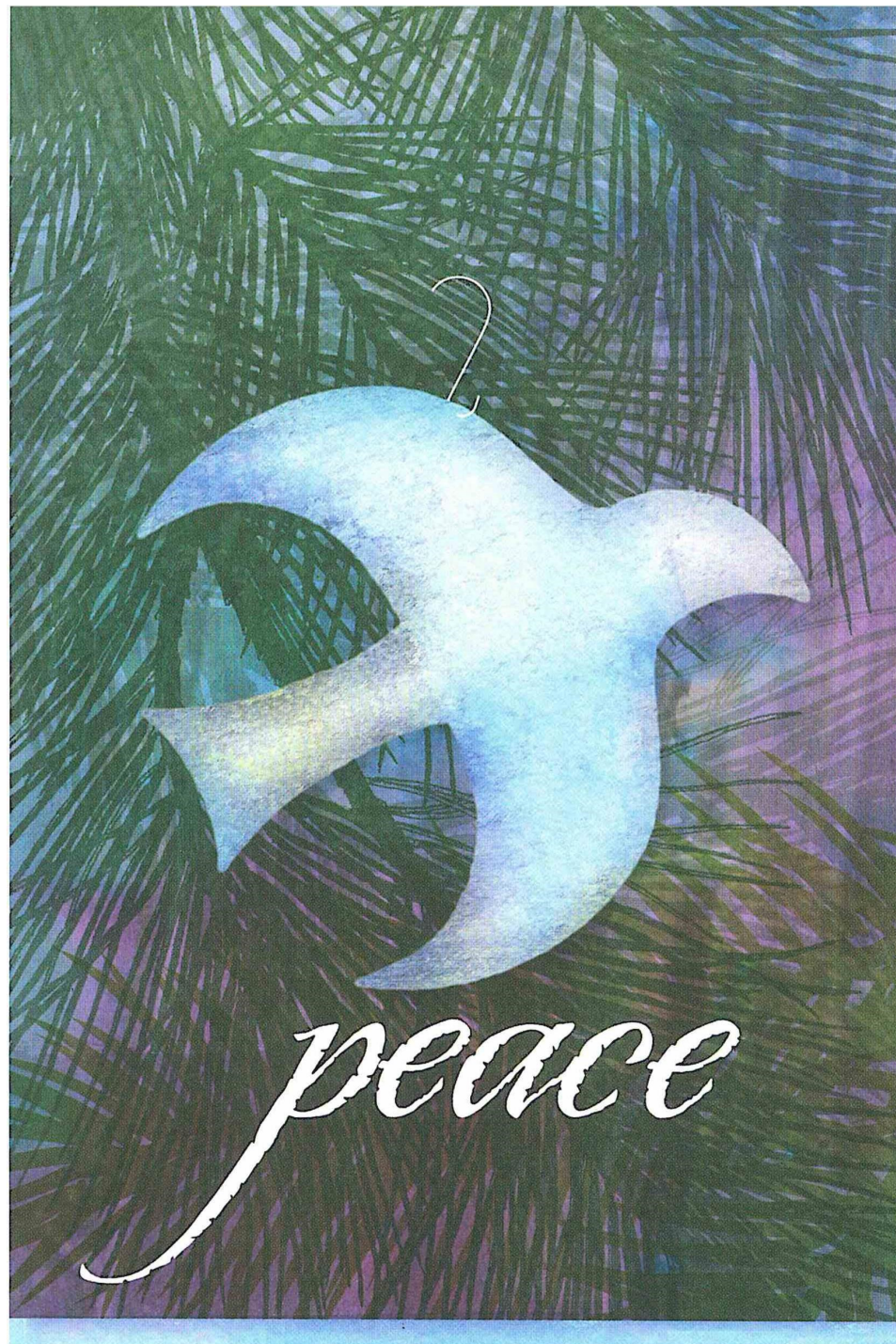
- 7:00 PM Church Board

Sunday, December 17—Advent 3—*Let it be whole*

- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 4:00 PM Catechism

Upcoming Worship Services

- December 24—Advent 4—*Yes! Let it be now*—2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- 9:30 AM—Christmas Eve Breakfast Potluck—No Sunday School
- December 31—*Yes! Let it be new*—Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
- January 7—Epiphany: *Yes! Let it be declared*—Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12



Donations for the Salvation Army—Again this year, we are taking donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarfs for the Salvation Army. There will be boxes under the Nativity Set in the Court Area for the month of December. Thank you for your donations.

Yearbook update forms have been put in your mailbox. Please fill out the form if there are any changes and return the form to the box in the Court Area by Sunday, December 24. If you have family members listed in the Yearbook who do not regularly attend or live out of the area, please fill out a form for them if their information is different from what is in the Yearbook. If you are not currently in the Yearbook and would like to be, please make sure to fill out a form. Extra forms are also available in the Court Area.

If you would like to send Jaime Tschetter a holiday greeting card her address is: 6046 East 30th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Register now for the Year of Evangelism Kick-Off: January 19-20, 2018. Reconnect ancient spiritual practices, social justice, and authentic Anabaptist evangelism for today. See the poster on the bulletin boards. Find a schedule and more information about this exciting workshop for church groups and individuals at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>. Registration is \$30/person or \$25/person if four or more people from the same congregation attend. Contact Joel Schroeder if you're interested.

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army bell at South Dillons, Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. If you have an hour or two free, please consider helping. The schedule is posted in the Court Area on the bulletin board. Contact Bob Schmidt at 316-283-3916 for more information.

Harvest of Love—Throughout December, the Salvation Army invites you to join in our annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. Items always needed are canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), peanut butter, 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. Every donation is a gift that makes a difference in our neighbors' lives! The last day we will collect food is December 17.

Children's Christmas Eve practice will be December 13 and 20, 6:30-8:00 PM. Children in grades K-5 will meet in the sanctuary. Please enter through the East or South doors of the church only. The others will remain locked. We hope to see all the children in Sunday School also! We will be singing our Christmas Eve songs during class time from 10:05 to 10:15 AM. If you have any questions, call Cora Voran.

SR. HIGH YOUTH

*With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:
Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Connected*

BIBLE STUDY - TODAY! Sunday, 12/10 @ 4:04 PM—Gather in the Youth Rooms for an on-going study of the "I AM" statements found in the Gospel According to John.

YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday, 12/13 @ 7:02 PM —IT'S A PARTY!!! Bring a "White Elephant" gift, dress in your craziest Christmas attire, bring a friend or two, and be prepared for an amazing evening!!

CATECHISM - Sunday, 12/17 @ 4:04 PM

LUMINIARIES - Sunday, 12/24 @ 6:16 PM



Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 31, 2017 so that music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact Don Kingsley at 316-773-8044.

The Allies group, which supports people with various sexual identities and their families and friends, will be meeting Sunday, December 17, 4:00 PM at Paul and Wendy Schrag's home (1527 Westborough Drive).

Community Announcements

Today at Bethel College—32nd annual Lighting of the Green, 8:00 PM.

Bethel College Alumni Choir performs a short Christmas concert today, 3:00 PM, at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton. There will be a punch and cookie reception following.

You're invited to the annual MCC Christmas Soiree on Thursday, December 14, 5:00-7:00 PM, at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th St.). Join us for this annual come-and-go event to enjoy food, drinks and great conversation. At 6:00 PM, we'll have a short program to hear about MCC's work with refugees in Jordan. Bring your family and friends; we look forward to seeing you! Contact patsydirksen@mcc.org with questions.

Nurture children's faith at home this Advent and Christmas through family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at anabaptistfaithformation.org/faith-at-home, and click on the link under Advent Family Worship. For use between December 3 and January 6, it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association is selling recipe books with 23 favorite recipes. The books are \$20. If you are interested in one of the recipe books, there is more information on the shelf outside of the Church Office.

New music supports Syrian refugees through MCC! The Midnight Hymn Sing is a collection of hymns performed and reimagined by a new generation of Mennonites from San Francisco. The Midnight Hymn Sing was made to call us all to come back around the piano and to find something that speaks to our hearts in the 21st century. CD's are available at MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th) for a suggested donation of \$15/CD with all money going to support MCC's work with Syrian refugees. The album is also available on Amazon and iTunes. Please contact patsydirksen@mcc.org or tinaschrag@mcc.org or 283-2720 with questions or to get your CD!

We're looking for you, summer staffers! Camp Mennoscah has started the "round-up" process for the 2018 summer staff. Find the information online at campmennoscah.org/application/ and then fill out the application! Our summer staff are dedicated to giving campers, staff, and guests a great, God-filled experience at Camp Mennoscah. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 with questions.

OUR VISION—Together in Christ: rooted deeply, reaching widely, loving well

OUR MISSION—With Jesus as our center, we are called to be:

- Faith-Focused
- Mission-Minded
- Community-Connected



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Pastoral Team	
Anita Kehr, Pastor.....	316-283-5598
Joel Schroeder, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults	316-215-2497
Kay Schroeder, Pastor of Worship and Visitation (Sabbatical, September 1-December 31)	
Administrative Assistant	Custodian
Tracy Kerr	Gordon Flickner
316-283-0273	316-217-1346

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 second half of 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!

Today's Worship Participants

Choir Director/Chorister: Matthew Graber; Choir Accompanist: Jyl Ewy; Worship Team: Joey Menninga, leader; Seth Bontrager, drums; Amanda Entz, bass guitar; Joan Entz, vocals; Sheralyn Goering, piano; Bryan Kehr, acoustic guitar; Dan Miller, vocals
 Childcare: Chris Weaver and Brooklynn Black
 Ushers: Bob Schmidt, Brian Walker, Heath Kerr, Donnie Kingsley
 Audio Tech: Ron Bachman Video/Lighting Tech: Alex Goering
 Visuals: Carol Hiebert

"Meet the Congregation" displays now feature Dennis and Diane Flickner (Court Area display case); Larry, Carol, Isaac and Amanda Entz (Library display case); and Karen Regier, George and Crystal Ray and family (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

- Worship—216 Visitors—2
- Sunday School—181

Offering: Last week's offering for Western District Conference was \$1,698 and Local Missions Fund was \$9,054. The offering for December 17 is for Local Mission.

A big thank you goes out to Brent and Cora Voran and John and Janice Good. These four people put up the trees in the sanctuary corners. We thank Carol Hiebert for the advent wreath and the beautiful poinsettias that make the front of the church look so beautiful. Many hands are needed to make our worship space beautiful and Christmas ready. Thank you all so much!

December Seconds @ FIRST Potluck is today. Everyone is encouraged to gather around the tables following the worship service for conversation. A special invitation is extended to YOUNG ADULTS and COLLEGE STUDENTS to join the conversation and eat some great food!

The Jr. High Christmas white elephant party will be today, 5:30-7:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Supper will be provided. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift to share.