

Kept Waiting by Fear

December 15, 2019

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Gathering and Praising

Gathering song: *Oh, how shall I receive thee* *H 182

Welcome and the work of the people (announcements)

Opening words from Isaiah 35:1-10 Dave Wiebe

Centering music

Prayer:

One: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

Many: Asking, when will I start rejoicing that you are coming?

Will I trust your faithfulness to your creation?

One: Can I be patient enough to trust in your time, instead of my own?

All: God, what am I waiting for?

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

Greet one another; children come forward

Children's focus Andrea Regier

Advent song: *Hope is a candle* (verses 1, 4, 5)

Lighting the Advent Candle Ivy Goering

Installing of Susan Jantzen as interim pastor of worship and visitation

Special music Men's Group

Praise Ye the Lord by Saint-Saëns, arr. Wilson and Ehret

African Noel arr. Andre J. Thomas

Offering: Local Mission

Offertory

(Please pass the welcome pads)

Offering response: *Praise God from whom* (stanza A) H 119

Hearing God's Word

Monologue: *Mary* Penny Dorado, written by Ken Frey

Song of faith: *My soul is filled with joy*

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

Meditation: *Waiting for Change* Pastor Anita Kehr

Responding to God's Word

Song of response: *Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing* H 110

(verses 1, 3, 5)

Prayers of the church Sam Claassen, Caregiving Commission

Sending

Sending song: *Joy to the world* H 318

Benediction

Postlude

*H denotes Hymnal: A Worship Book **CS denotes Companion Songbook

Chorister: Carol Entz; Musicians: Donna Stucky, organist/pianist; Greg Bontrager, leader of the men's group

Childcare: Stephanie Weaver, Lynette Erb, Evelyn Gaertner

Nursery: Shirley Dietzel, Kathleen Andres, Barb Claassen

Ushers: Gus Dorado, Dave Gering, Mike Garcia, Andrea Regier

Audio Tech: Eric Murphy

Video/Lighting Tech: Tim Regier

Visuals: Carol Hiebert

Property Committee: Alan Entz

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent—*Kept waiting by fear*

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service

7:00 PM Messiah—Sanctuary

Monday, December 16

7:00 PM Property Committee

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 PM Caregiving and Membership Commission

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve practice

7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent—*Worth the wait*

9:15 AM Christmas Potluck Brunch during the Sunday School hour

10:30 AM Worship Service

Upcoming Worship Services

December 29—First Sunday after Christmas—*Time to get a move on*

January 5—Epiphany Sunday—Unable to go back the way we came!



SR. HIGH YOUTH



- **Handel's Messiah**—Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM.
- **Christmas Party**—Thursday, December 19, 7:00 PM. (**NOTE Thursday, not Wednesday**) Bring a white elephant gift and a snack to share.
- **Christmas Eve program**—Tuesday, December 24—Prepare luminaries for church sidewalks. Meet in the Youth room at 5:45 PM.
- **Christmas Day—No YG**, spend Christmas with your family!

Harvest of Love—Throughout November and 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, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal (of any kind), 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. So far, we have collected 177 pounds of food and \$250 in donations. Way to go!

Prayer Places: If you're interested in scheduling an extended prayer time in either the "upper room" balcony prayer room or in the Warkentin Room, please coordinate with the church office. We hope you will!

Cards are available in the pews for you to share your thoughts, prayer requests, ask for a visit, or whatever you would like to communicate. Remember to sign them and put them in the offering plate.

Transition information: Today, we joyfully install Susan Jantzen for her ministry as interim pastor of worship and visitation. The Church and Staff Relations Committee continues to work at finding quarter-time support for the youth program.

Community Announcements

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus enrollment is now underway for its 52nd year. All men and boys who enjoy singing are encouraged to sign up by December 20, but it's not a deadline. It's an early record date so music packets can be ordered. For more information, contact Donnie Kingsley at

316-773-8044 or email: dl_jr@cox.net. The 2020 concert schedule is April 19, 7:00 PM—Tabor College Richert Auditorium in Hillsboro and April 26, 7:00 PM—Bethel College Memorial Hall in North Newton.

You are invited to join MC USA staff for "Coffee and Conversation" in the Newton offices (718 N Main St, Newton KS) to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, on Monday, December 16, 11:00 AM. She will share about the ministries in which she is involved with Kekchi Mennonite women in Guatemala.

Night in the Barn: Everyone is invited to come to Night in the Barn at Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 70th, Newton) on **December 21 and 22, 5:00-7:00 PM** (come/go). Interact with the characters, sounds, lights, and animals of this timeless tale and enjoy this walking tour with family and friends. A suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and a snack. Presented by Tabor Mennonite Church Youth, with part of the proceeds going to the Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship. Call 620-367-2721 with questions.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full-time finance assistant and a half-time recruiter. You can see the positions descriptions at mennonitemission.net under "employment opportunities." To begin the application process for either of these positions, send your resumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net or call Linda Krueger, HR Coordinator (574-523-3009) for more information.

Looking for a way to connect with people and engage with Mennonite Central Committee's supporters? We're hiring an Alumni Engagement Coordinator! The person in this salaried position will coordinate the alumni experience and support colleagues in strategic engagement of alumni. Application close date is November 18. For more information and to apply, please visit: serve.mcc.org.

Join an intentional community with peers, serve with a local nonprofit, and plug into your neighborhood and local congregation in places like Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; and Alamosa. Learn more at MennoniteMission.net/Serve. Age: 20+; term: 1–2 years.

Need a change of scenery? Join SOOP and use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. Flexibility designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Explore opportunities at MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group at Kidron Bethel Village: On the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM in the Sunroom of the Whispering Meadows Unit in Healthcare, Kidron Bethel holds a support group meeting for persons who are caring for loved ones living with dementia. **The next meeting is December 19.** The group is open to participants from the wider Newton community and has affiliation with the Alzheimer's Association of Central and Western Kansas. Eric Massanari, KBV Chaplain, and Beth Penner, Associate Director of Independent Living, serve as group facilitators. Please contact Eric Massanari with any questions: 316-836-4829.

Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions now available! 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...Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a wide variety of positions in fields like education, agriculture, health care, information technology, peace and more! Start now at salt.mcc.org, to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options and to apply. Application close date 02/15/20.

Western District Women in Mission in cooperation with Everence Financial will host a two-day conference "Let's Talk...Women, Money & Faith" on January 24 and 25 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton. Featured speakers, Teresa Boshart Yoder and Rhoda Blough from Everence Financial, will address money and faith topics for women of all ages and stages of life. More information and registration coming soon on Facebook at facebook.com/WesternDistrictWomen/?modal=admin_todo_tour or at our web page communicationswdwm.wixsite.com/wdwm.

Thinking of pastoral ministry? Be a Service Adventure leader! Live in a unit house with a small group of youth and offer support as they serve and live in Christian community. Age: 24+; term: 2 years. For more info, contact LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net.

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 in Room 225. 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!

First Mennonite Church by the numbers

Attendance:

•Worship—210 Visitors—2; Sunday School—155

Offering: Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$11,793. The offering for December 22 is for Local Mission.

Handel's Messiah will be presented here at FMC today, 7:00 PM, with a community chorus, orchestra and soloists as follows: Holly Swartzendruber, Monica Schmidt Spicer, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliewer. The director is Matthew Graber. Come for a blessed time of music as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah! An offering will be taken to cover expenses and support New Hope Shelter.

For the next few weeks the Office and Library Showcases will feature nativity sets from various countries. Stop by and take a look.

The holiday season can be especially difficult for survivors of sexual abuse. A support group under the guidance of a professional therapist will be available for survivors on December 17. If you are a sexual abuse survivor and would like more information, please call June Thomsen (316-239-8747) for details.

Breakfast brunch—Next Sunday, December 22, 9:15 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and juice will be provided by the Nurture Commission. Please bring a breakfast item to share with others and join us for fellowship and good food. There will be **no Sunday School** on this day.

KIPCOR is asking for our evaluation. A link to a survey was sent out by email this week, and paper copies are available in the office. Please return yours by December 31!