

December 2021

Pastor David Kim

UMC *Connec*  *tion*

Pastor's Page

Again on Advent

Advent has begun. It refers to the four weeks before Christmas, and it is often spent during these four weeks eagerly waiting for the birth of Jesus and His coming to this earth. So, for the next four weeks, we are going to share a message that is appropriate for Advent, especially who is Jesus and what is the message Jesus proclaimed.

The expression of waiting is recorded over 200 times in the Bible. Noah built the ark and waited 120 years for it to rain, and Moses and the Israelites waited 40 years to enter the land of Canaan in the wilderness. Abraham waited 100 years to give birth to his son Isaac. The Bible was completed over 1,500 years, and we are waiting for the second coming of Jesus for more than 2,000 years.

God has given believers a waiting mission. There are many spiritual blessings in waiting. There are many benefits to waiting before the end of the waiting. Waiting is never in vain. In our age, where we are accustomed to living in an instant, how about waiting for Jesus Christ with all our hearts for four weeks? Jesus, who came as promised, will surely meet us.

Waiting is the starting point of hope that brings us excitement and joy. Let's look back on how much excitement and joy it is to wait for the return of Jesus in this dark time of the world. I would like to share with you a part of the poem 'Again on Advent' by Lee Hae-in, which I read again every Advent year. I want us to meditate together on what the lost waiting is in this age and why the waiting needs to be restored.

"Are you going to come like that, like the bright, round sun that always rises when the time comes?

Will you quietly rise as the sun of love in the hearts of the poor who have nothing but waiting?

We repent of our foolishness that we lost our joy because we could not wait, and now we appreciate the grace of waiting anew. We learn again that waiting is the beginning of prayer.

Lord, who is a door to those who are troubled and a fountain of salvation to those who are thirsty,

Come to those who are in despair with hope, and come to those who mourn, with joy. Come as a healer to the sick and a liberator to the imprisoned.

Now our waiting gives off the aroma of ripe wine and the sound of woodwinds.

Welcome, Lord, we are not yet completely emptied of our hearts, but please make sure that we see you after the wait of humble longing.

Welcome, Lord, our first and last wait. In our hearts that call you with the thrill of lighting a candle, the bright joy that comes from loving you blooms."

-Pastor David

Silent Night

While some have tried to attribute this carol to famous composers such as Mozart or Beethoven, the real men behind "Silent Night" were not as famous.

The lyrics for "Silent Night", or "Stille Nacht", as it was originally dubbed, were written in 1816 by a priest named Joseph Mohr in the small Austrian town of Mariapfarr.

It was his father's hometown, and he was assigned to a church there, according to a manuscript written by Mohr that was re-discovered in 1995.

He had asked Franz Xaver Gruber, a schoolmaster, to compose the melody for it.

After completion, it was performed at a church in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, where Mohr had migrated to, for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1818.

In 1839, it was brought to America by a family of folk singers, the Rainers, when they performed it in New York City.

Legend has it that on Christmas Eve of 1914, a beautiful moment was shared by opposing World War I troops when they all began to sing "Silent Night" as one unit.



It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

By Bill Dagle

Edmund Sears was born on April 6, 1810, in Sandisfield, Massachusetts. In the next 66 years, he would graduate from Union College in Schenectady, New York, receive a doctor's degree from Harvard and pastor three small churches in Wayland, Lancaster and Weston, Massachusetts. He died in 1876 and would have been forgotten by most except for one little detail.

In 1846, he penned a Christmas poem, entitled Peace on Earth, and put it in his desk because of the non-acceptance of a previous Christmas hymn he had written entitled Calm on the Listening Ears of Night in 1834. Peace on Earth would stay in his desk for the next three years, but God had a plan. The country preacher was destined to be remembered for that poem.

Pastor Sears could have served the metropolitan pulpits of Boston, but he had grown up in the Berkshire Hills and loved the small town way of life. The country setting and changing seasons gave writing inspiration from long summer days to cold winter nights.

Could it be that on one of those cold New England nights, looking through a frost laden window, he saw with his mind's eye a scene of long ago—the coming of the angels to a Judean hillside, the shepherds struck with fear and the message from Heaven's all-gracious King, "Peace on earth, good will to men"? Together, all of this would give birth to the poem, Peace on Earth.

Time and dust would have swallowed Pastor Sears' poem; but in 1849, he sent Peace on Earth to the publisher of Boston's Christian Register. A year went by until finally, for Christmas of 1850, the poem was put in print for all to see. It would be Richard Willis, a graduate of Yale and music critic for the New York Tribune, who would give flight to the words by adding music. Years later, Oliver Wendell Holmes declared the new hymn as "one of the finest and most beautiful ever written."

The hymn is still as beautiful as ever, and the message all the more needed. Today, we sing Edmund Sears' Christmas poem of peace under the title of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.

Christmas Bells are Ringing

Tea Party

Cambridge Trinity United Methodist Church

Saturday December 4 at 2:30 PM

RSVP to Wanda at

970-420-1194 or 308-697-4352

Message of Faith

Music



Bartley UMW

Thank you for your wonderful donations for our backpack program!

We are so appreciative of your generosity and we know our students are as well. Bless you all!

Sincerely,
Cheryl & Carrie
Southwest Public Schools

Sunday School will be held the second Sunday of the each month beginning at 10 am.
Bible Study will take a break for the month of December.
Watch for other news in the prayer requests and the bulletins.
We will post times for the Christmas Eve service in the next week.

Checking in with God

O God, we come before You in the presence of the Holy Spirit, placing deep and heartfelt desires at Your feet. Lord, help us be in accordance with Your will and plans.

Lord Jesus Christ, counselor of all who come for Your aid and seek Your guidance. May hearts be not hardened to receive Your word. May eyes not be blinded to see the truth and obedience to Your will. Amen.

Shane Warta, Coordinator of Lay Leadership



To order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Blooms at 697-3800



We made a difference!!!!

Again this year our Churches filled Operation Christmas shoeboxes with some help from lots of elves! Thank you everyone who filled a box or gave a donation.



The Mitten Tree

Lois Circle started the Mitten Tree project several years ago and we are continuing the project again this year. The items are taken to the Domestic Abuse home in McCook.

Please bring mittens, hats, underwear or scarves to put on the tree, so we can keep some little ones warm again this winter!

Your gifts are the warmth for a little one's heart in this season of giving and loving.

The Domestic Abuse Center will take any donations of new items from our Church. The box in the airlock is there for the drop off of items if the church isn't open.



Thank you!

All members of the **Bartley UMW** met for the November 10, 2:00 pm meeting. President Pam Downer led the reading of the UMW Purpose. LaNora Palmateer gave Devotions using Lamintations 3:22-32, which stressed patience. Be honest with God, pray as honestly as you can and know God cares for you. Pam and Charlene Colson celebrated their November birthdays and received Corsages for Missions.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A thank you note was read from Carrie Smith, Counselor at the Southwest Elementary School, thanking the UMW for the contributions to the Backpack program.

After discussion, the members voted to send mission donations to UMCOR, DASAS, Epworth Village, Adopt-a-Chaplain, the Prayer Blanket fund, and Bartley EMT's. A Gift in Memory mission donation was given in Bob Newcomb's name.

Kathleen Hansen presented the World Thank Offering lesson. She and Charlene read from Mark 2:13-22, the Parable of using wine and wineskins. Old wineskins are not to be patched, no one puts new wine into old wineskins or the wine is lost. Are we serving stale and sour wine, so we might never have to stretch the skin we have already? Embrace change and newness. Elnora Burke shared a World Thank Offering story from the Response Magazine. The World Thank Offering makes mission possible after more than 135 years helping women, children and youth in our neighborhood and around the world. The lesson closed with members bringing their World Thank Offerings to the Thank Offering Box.

December events for the United Methodist Women include: Cambridge Christmas Tea Party on December 4 at 2:30pm; fellowship and lunch at Cambridge Senior Center on December 14.

Pam hosted and closed the meeting with words of wisdom from Amelia Earhart. The next meeting will be January 12, 2022.

Hanging of the Greens





**Merry
Christmas**

Invite a friend to join us
Worship Services

**Trinity United
Methodist Church**

620 Penn Street
PO Box 310
Cambridge, NE 69022
(308) 697-4352

trinityumcoffice@swnebr.net

Pastor David's e-mail:

David_kim@greatplainsumc.org

9:45am Fellowship
11:00am Worship

**Indianola /
Kemper Memorial United
Methodist Church**

9:45 am Worship
Followed by Fellowship



**& Birthdays
Anniversaries**

December

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|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 6 | Jordan Arnold | 20 | Gerald Hilton |
| 7 | Renee Holtze | | Kyle Borland |
| 8 | Jeff Jackson | | Chance Westadt |
| 9 | Marilyn Wolzen | 23 | Addison Jones |
| | Shelly Cope | 27 | Barbara Johnson |
| 10 | Violet Blume | 30 | Eunice Miller |
| 12 | Nancy Knutson | | Tony Groshong |
| 15 | Kathleen Hansen | 31 | Pat Bowers |
| | Daren Mowry | | |
| 16 | Jackson Ebbers | | |
| | Lisa Dutt | | |
| | Riley Warwick | | |

Happy Anniversary

December 30
Steve & Eileen Johnson



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or if the date is incorrect, please let us know.