



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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January 4, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

"We Three Kings" – arr. Linker

"Carol of Light" – arr. Thiman

"Bright the Vision that Delighted" – arr. Thiman

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 60)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

The LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

"We Three Kings" (insert)

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (in unison)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people of every nation. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the suffering of the world; we ignore the call to justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may offer our gifts at your table, and receive anew your Son's shining glory to show forth in our lives. Amen.

Hymn

"Morning Star" – HWB # 214

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Isaiah 60:1-22; 2 Timothy 1:6-14; Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

Special Music

"Bethlehem Down" (Blunt & Warlock)

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY**Hymn of Response***"Brightest & Best" – STS #29***Announcements and Offerings**

- **Today's Worship offering:** Oyate Hope Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Sunday School
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer**The Lord's Prayer****Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving****Sharing of Bread and Cup from the Lord's Table****IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES****Closing Hymn***"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" – STJ # 95***Benediction**

HWB # 789

Postlude*"A Star Proclaims the King is Here" – arr. J.C. Bach*

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); **Coffee:** Young Adult SS Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK**TODAY**

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Parsonage Open House beginning at 12:00 noon

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>

- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

NEXT SUNDAY, January 11, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday School Offering: Member in Mission

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m. – Deacons Meeting

Thursday, February 12 – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the Senior Giving Tree project. The residents and staff of Oakview Terrace and Assisted Living were very appreciative of your generosity! Salem Mennonite Mission and Service Team

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Etcetera Shoppe Needs: Are you a person who would enjoy doing a simple sewing task, in your own home, to benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee? Et Cetera Shoppe has the perfect opportunity for you! We are seeking more volunteers to sew rug strips together, for our weavers to make into rugs. It's a very simple process that is quite similar to preparing a quilt binding. This can be done on your own time, however it fits into your own schedule - and provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy an audiobook, podcast, or movie in the background! If this sounds like something you'd be willing to try in 2026, please call the shop at 925-7098, or stop in, and talk to Kris or Anita.

Swan Lake Christian Camp 2026 Winter Retreats are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows 5th-8th Grade Retreat/January 16-18, 8th-12th Grade Retreat/January 9-11. Sign up online at www.myslcc.com

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com

Bethlehem Down

Brian Blunt, alt.

“When He is King we will give him the Kings' gifts
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets
Myrrh for embalming, and thorns for a crown
He that lies now in the soft arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri-ent are; bear-ing gifts we tra-verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a-gain,
3 Frank-in - cense to of-fer have I; in-cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom;
5 Glo - ri-ous now be - hold him a-rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais-ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - row-ing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



We Three Kings of Orient Are



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