



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave  
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**December 13, 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent**

**“On the road to restoration”**

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## **I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(9:15-9:30) Gathering

- <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>
- Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019
- One-Tab Mobile (iPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

**Prelude** “The Holly and the Ivy/Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”  
“What Child is This/Helpless and Hungry”

**Handbell Call to Worship** “He is Born!” – Behnke  
Donna Ries, director

**Welcome & Greeting One Another**

**Responsive Call to Worship:**

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

**People: Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

**People: Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.**

**All: The Lord has done great things for us – we rejoice!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn** “What Child is This” – HWB #215

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** “Jesus, the Light of the World” - arr. Fettke  
Men’s Choir - Janet Balzer, director; Debra Schmeichel, accompanist

**Confession and words of assurance:**

Leader: God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

**People: We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.**

**All: Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.**

## II. HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Children's Time

#### Hearing the Word

John 1:19-28

#### Dramatic Monologue

"John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah"

#### Sermon:

"On the road to restoration"

#### Anthem

"We Three Kings" – arr. Dobrinski

## III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

### Announcements & Offerings

- Today's **Worship offering** is for Swan Lake Christian Camp
- Today's **Sunday school offering** is for Members in Mission
- **Children's Offering** this quarter is for Oyate Concern Christian School

### Congregational Sharing & Prayer

## IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Sending Hymn

"O, Come all ye Faithful" – HWB #212

### Spoken Benediction

*People of God, people on the road:*

*May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;*

*and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound*

*and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*The one who calls you is faithful and will do this.*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Go in peace.*

### Postlude

"Silent Night"

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**Worship Leader:** Lois Preheim; **Speaker:** Pastor David; **Musicians:** Brad Anderson (piano), Madelyn Anderson (ukulele), Handbells and Men's Choir (Christmas Concert 2016); **Monologue:** Lee Brockmueller, **Children's Time:** Ben Brockmueller; **Candle Lighters:** Brent & Angie Brockmueller and Joy Erdman

### WORSHIP OFFERING

Worship Offering Next Sunday (12/20)

Freeman Academy

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Offering Next Sunday (12/20)

AMBS/EMS

# THE CHURCH AT WORK

## TODAY

**We welcome all** who are worshipping with us this morning both in person and on Zoom!

## THIS WEEK

**Wed (16<sup>th</sup>), 7:00 p.m.** – Youth Bible Study

## NEXT SUNDAY, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Speaker:** Pastor David; **Worship Leader:** Brennan Waltner; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organ)

## COMING EVENTS

**January 6** – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting

**January 7** – Zoom Deacon Board Meeting

**January 8-10** – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Retreat

**January 13** – Christian Formation Meeting

**January 15-17** – Junior High Winter Retreat

## SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

**CD Recordings:** If you or someone you know is unable to join us in worship on Zoom or in person, and would like to receive a CD recording copy of our worship services, please let Jay, or a deacon know and we will make arrangements to make a weekly copy for you.

**The Christmas Day service** this year will be Zoom only starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be a greeting, prayer and possibly a scripture reading and then a recording of a South Church Christmas Concert.

**This Christmas season**, the Mission and Service Team will be reaching out to students and staff at Oyate Concern Christian School to send them Christmas gift bags. This has been a challenging year for families and staff at the school, and as a mission partner, we want to demonstrate God's love and show our support for the staff and students in need at Christmas. The school has 24 students in Grades Pre-K through 7th grade, and 6 instructors. If you are willing to help with this project, please put your monetary donations in the offering plate, earmarked "Oyate gift bags". Thank you! Mission and Service Team

**If you would like to donate** a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one during this holiday season, please contact Cheryl at 925-4204.

**Take Them a Meal** [www.TakeThemAMeal.com/LOUP6714](http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/LOUP6714) was created by Peggy Waltner (on behalf of the deacons) for Don and Sonja Waltner; it will be Mon., Wed., and Fri. until Dec. 23. Go to the link to sign up to take them a meal. Contact Peggy if you have any questions.

**It has been suggested** that we remember the birthdays of our members who are in care facilities or those who need to stay in their home during this time.

### **December**

18<sup>th</sup> – Phyllis Reimer, PO Box 63, Freeman, SD 57029

### **COMMUNITY AND BEYOND**

**God has been very good to us at Swan Lake Christian Camp** this past year. We were able to hold our summer camps in the midst of the virus with zero reported incidents. Our camper attendance was not like the previous year, but still decent. The message of God's truth, His grace, and His plan for our salvation continues to be taught. After senior high camp, two campers asked to be baptized which we did after consulting both their parents and their pastors. Many of our adult groups did cancel their reservations, but again, God has sustained us. Our fall and winter groups, who are able to spread out a bit more, are holding their retreats. Work continues on a new bathhouse connected to the chapel. Through all of this, we as camp staff and board members are extremely grateful to God and to all of you who pray for us often and hold SLCC dear to your hearts. We would ask you to continue to keep us in your prayers and to consider us in your year-end giving.

**Swan Lake Christian Camp 2021 Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Don't forget to sign your kids up for Winter Youth Retreats. Dates are: 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat – January 8-10, Junior High – January 15-17 & Senior High – January 22-24. Family Camp is February 26-28. Families with children, grandparents, singles and you married couples are all invited to attend this fun filled weekend. You can sign up online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com)

**Kauffman Museum at Bethel College** is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" through Jan. 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, "Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads," created from the museum's permanent exhibit "Of Land and People." The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri; 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays and major holidays (Friday, Dec. 25, Friday, Jan. 1). Admission to the "Crossroads" exhibit is free on Saturdays.

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am (in person & Zoom) No Sunday School at this time

Office Hours – Wednesday - Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday

Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant ([southchurch@goldenwest.net](mailto:southchurch@goldenwest.net)) 925-4553

David Erdman, Interim Pastor 605 350-7231

Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

## Gordon Scoville News—December, 2020

**How's Gordon?** He remains thrilled to be in his own house again, and enjoys an occasional walk outdoors! In a visit yesterday, Gordon mentioned that he physically tires more easily now, has a bit more difficulty swallowing food, and finds that just a little supplemental oxygen gives him a boost when he is walking. Afternoon resting re-energizes him. Gordon continues to self-isolate to reduce exposure to any potential infections that would challenge his severely compromised immune system, with caregivers wearing masks when they visit. Your prayers, calls from 9 AM to Noon (see his cell number below), and cards continue to be important to Gordon, and are very much appreciated!

**Monthly Receipts, Distributions, and Current Balance:** The benevolent fund for Gordon, administered by Central Plains Mennonite Conference, received \$200 in the month of November. After deducting \$65 for his December apartment rental (the balance of his rent was covered by another donor), and adding back the November donor deposits, the current balance as of December 1<sup>st</sup> is \$5,516—that provides a wonderful emergency fund cushion!

*With the much-improved budgeted expenses, we will be able to reduce gift requests and monthly distributions for Gordon's expenses.* From now on, we are projecting only \$65-\$150 monthly withdrawals from the CPMC benevolent fund! Praise God! Thank you for this generous outpouring of support!

Thank you, all! May God richly bless you for your love and generosity!

### **Contact Information:**

**Gordon's new address:** *Gordon Scoville, Trailer 1, 302 South State Highway 6, Milford, NE 68405.*

*His phone number: (402)803-4326. To allow Gordon to rest in the afternoon, please call only in the mornings, from 9 to noon Central time.*

*\*PLEASE NOTE: Gordon's financial needs are much improved. If you or your congregation would like to continue Gordon's ongoing, but reduced support, please send your contributions payable to: **Central Plains Mennonite Conference, P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029**, and write "Benevolent Fund for GS" on the memo line.*

*\*If you have additional questions, please feel free to email Susan Janzen, Conference Minister for Ministerial Leadership of Central Plains Mennonite Conference, [susanjanzen@centralplainsmc.org](mailto:susanjanzen@centralplainsmc.org) or Sid Burkey, Coordinator from Bellwood Mennonite Church, Milford Nebraska, [sid@burkeyfarms.com](mailto:sid@burkeyfarms.com).*

