



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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southchurchsd.org

Advent III – December 15, 2019

Supreme Christ: King of Kings and Lord of Lords

I. WAITING FOR GOD

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“Holly and the Ivy”/“Come, thou long-expected Jesus” – medley

Gathering Advent Hymns

“Savior of the Nations Come” blue HWB #173

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” blue HWB #178

Welcome & Call to Worship

blue HWB #664

Choral Call

“Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes” – Tans’ur (*purple SS #4*)

Candle Lighting

“What are you waiting for?”

Children’s Focus

Letters from Bethlehem

A Wise One

Carol of the King

“We Three Kings” (*vv. 1, 2 & 5 on insert*)

II. RECEIVING GOD’S WORD

Hearing Scripture

Colossians 1:13-20

Chancel Invocation

“The World Awaits Your Coming” – Pepper

Sermon

“Things you may have missed in Sunday school”

III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST’S REIGN

Offering

Ecuador Partnership

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Congregational Sharing & Prayers

- ❖ We give God thanks for **Pastor Bob Engbrecht’s return to the pulpit** as he recovers from knee replacement surgery; may Bob continue to receive restored strength and sure-footedness for his ministry.

- ❖ We pray for the Spirit's clarity in wisdom for **Pastor Nick, Erika and Washington (IA) Mennonite Church** during this weekend's pastoral candidate visit to discern a potential ministry together.
- ❖ We pray Christ's blessing on and through **Pastor Eugene Thieszen**, installed last Sunday as Interim Pastor of Pastoral Care & Worship with Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, NE; may Eugene's ministry be a blessing to the congregation in their time of transition.

IV. SENT WITH THE KING'S PEACE

Sending Hymn

"Joy to the World" blue HWB #318

Spoken Doxology

blue HWB #681

Postlude

Christmas Carol Medley

Greeters: Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Musicians:** Brad Anderson (piano), Chancel Choir; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Candle Lighters:** Brad & Elizabeth Anderson Family; **Children's Focus:** Wendy Miller; **Speaker:** Pastor Bob; **Nursery:** Amy Waltner; **Coffee:** Conf. Room Class

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Adult S.S. Offering Today

AMBS/EMS

Offering Next Sunday

Student Tuition Sharing Fund

Children's S.S. Offering

Community Gardens

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who have come to worship with us this morning! Please take time to greet others, invite them to Sunday school, and grab some coffee.

There will be Sunday School opening after the service for the two younger Sunday School classes upstairs in the chapel.

12:30-2:00 –Christmas Eve program practice for children in grades 2-8.

TONIGHT

7:30 - South Church Choirs program

Rehearsal meeting times:

5:45 – Handbells

6:30 – Chancel Choir

7:10 – Men's Choir and Ladies' Ensemble

THIS WEEK

Wed. (18th), 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel

8:30 p.m. – Ladies' Ensemble

NEXT SUNDAY, December 22

Speaker: Pastor Nick; **Worship Leader:** Carol Eisenbeis; **Musicians:** Ryan Haggerty (piano), Men's Choir; **Greeters:** Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Offering:** Freeman Academy; **Nursery:** Tracy Petersen; **Coffee:** Conf. Room Class

COMING EVENTS

December 23-28 – Pastor Nick & Family will be gone for Christmas

December 24 – Joint Children's Christmas Eve Service at South Church

December 29 – Ben Brockmueller will be speaking during morning worship

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Choir members: Christmas concert fellowship food assignments for tonight are as follows: Each family involved in Chancel Choir bring 1½ dozen bars or cookies, Ladies' Ensemble and Handbell choir members bring 10 pieces of fruit and 1 box of crackers, and men involved only in Men's Choir bring 2 boxes of crackers. Please bring food items to the kitchen on Sunday morning if possible.

Christmas Youth Gathering-Wednesday, Dec. 18. Please meet at the Haggerty's home at 7:00 for food, fun and white elephant gift exchange. Please bring your favorite holiday snack or treat to share with the group!

Please contact the church office if you would like a phone call when church services are cancelled.

Please take some time to sign the Christmas cards in the fellowship hall for our members who are unable to attend worship regularly.

Local Christmas Giving opportunity from Mission & Service Team - This year we have heard of a need to help families pay school lunch and breakfast bills at Freeman Public School. Donating cash to this will help the families free up money to pay for other needs, especially heating bills in the winter months. This will be done anonymously from South Church. Make checks out to the church and earmark in the memo line Mission & Service Project. We can open our hearts to the people right here in our community with basic needs. Thank you for your generosity and compassion; we are so blessed in many ways.

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.

Your Help With a Tasty Christmas Surprise – Anna Waltner requests your help in restoring a beloved recipe collection for Collin that was accidentally thrown away by a young member of the household! Collin was devastated that his 20-year collection of recipes from every place he has lived is gone. It also had hand written recipes from his grandma, Martha Waltner. Anna asks if South Church would help lessen the blow by writing their favorite recipe(s) on a 4x6 index card, putting them in Anna and Collin's church mailbox by 12/22.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

A program of Lessons and Carols will be given by the choirs of North Church on Sunday evening, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. Come join us in worship and fellowship as we commemorate the sacred celebration of Christ's birth this Christmas season.

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day: We have been invited to a worship service at North Church. There will be special music offerings, Christmas carol singing, scriptures proclaimed and praise offered. An offering will be received for "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls.

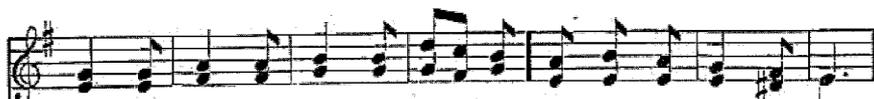
Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship
Office Hours – Wednesday – Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Nick Stoddard, Pastor (nick.southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-7106/940-7212
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

John H. Hopkins, 1862

John H. Hopkins, 1862



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse 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 - rious 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, all are rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
 Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Peals thro' 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.



Advent: Thoughts, Impressions, and memories.

When asked about writing some thoughts about Advent I had to take a moment to and reflect on what I really understood about Advent and what this season really meant to me.

My first thoughts were related to observing the time leading up to the birth of Jesus. My next thoughts of this time of the year was how I looked forward to a break from school, **but** with some reservation. Father planned some barn cleaning during this break from school. With several boys available, (for the only cost of meals), to load by hand the abundant *fertilizer* from the areas in the old barn that a loader could not reach. Then the enjoyable part of break, a few days before Christmas, I and sometimes a brother or two, went out to the pasture to find and cut down a scrub Cedar tree to bring home and help decorate.

I realized that we did not really celebrate Advent the way many believers do, especially in this time. This made me do some research on the historical observation and meaning of Advent. My upbringing was to understand the meanings of observations, such as Advent, more than actively taking part in celebrations. My understanding was/is that too much emphasis on celebration, pageantry, etc. often diminishes the impact of the real meaning and focus of/on Jesus. In current times the secularization of Christmas, starting with the 'Christmas in July' as a marketing tool, means that by the time Christmas arrives, we are weary of it all.

Advent has evolved over the centuries following Jesus's birth and resurrection. Even to this day there are different practices and meanings of this season to different denominations. Maybe my recollections are in some ways a reflection on what living a Godly life is about. There are those moments of joy and sense of wellbeing, along with the daily grind of life; however, observing and honoring the birth and life of Jesus is not just a celebration, it is also a daily challenge. The birth, baptism, teaching, and death of Jesus is the starting, renewing, and ongoing faith commitment believers choose.

While I might be in a minority, I feel some of the true meaning of Advent is a more solemn recognition that there is renewed hope if one is willing to accept the commitment and sacrifice worldly ideals to follow Jesus.

~Ted Boese