



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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December 22, 2019

Advent Four: In Jesus' Name

I. WAITING FOR GOD

Prelude

Choral Call to Worship

“Christmas is Coming” – Raney

Welcome & Call to Worship

blue HWB #678

Hymns of Christ's Advent

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” blue HWB #191

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” blue HWB #206

Candle Lighting

“What are you waiting for?”

Letters from Bethlehem

Mary, mother of Jesus

Nativity Carol

“What Child is this” blue HWB #215

II. RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Hearing Scripture

Matthew 1 - Names and more names

Pastoral Reflection

“Name Him Jesus”

III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S REIGN

Offering

Freeman Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayers

- ❖ We give God thanks for the life of **Violet Kaufman**; may Kim and Norm and their families have a vivid sense of “God With Us” during this Christmas week as they prepare for the funeral next Saturday.
- ❖ We pray for our CPMC siblings from **Christ Community Church** in Des Moines as they grieve the sudden death of **one of their ministry staff, Chris McDougal (59)** on Dec. 12; may Christ's peace come upon the McDougal and Christ Community Church family as prayed in the prophetic hymn text, “*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.*”

- ❖ We pray for **those in our neighborhood who have never received the good news of great joy** that Jesus the Messiah has come to save and redeem them from all sin and evil that makes us ill and afraid; may they receive Christ's promise to the *"glory of God in the highest, and that peace and favor may come on earth among God's people."*

IV. SENT WITH THE SPIRIT'S JOY

Doxology Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" blue HWB #210

Benediction

Postlude

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Adult S.S. Offering Today

Student Tuition Sharing Fund

Offering Next Sunday

Bethany Food Pantry

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.

THIS WEEK

Pastor Nick, Erika and the boys are away this week visiting their families for Christmas. Feel free to still contact Nick by phone or email this week, or contact pastor Bob or a deacon with care items, questions or concerns.

Mon. (23rd), 6:45 p.m. – Children's Christmas Eve Program Practice

Tues. (24th), 7:00 p.m. – Children's Christmas Eve Program

Wed. (25th), 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Service at North Church

NEXT SUNDAY, December 29

Speaker: Ben Brockmueller; **Worship Leader:** Brennan Waltner; **Musicians:** Anne Waltner (organ), Audrey Graber, Michael Graber & Ashley Julius; **Greeters:** Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Offering:** General Fund; **Nursery:** McKayla Preheim; **Coffee:** Conf. Room Class

COMING EVENTS

January 5 – Epiphany Sunday Communion

January 6 – Deacon Board Meeting

January 10 – Deacon Board Supper at Vernetta's

January 12 & 26 – Helping with Hutterthal Children's Church

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Violet Kaufman's Funeral will be Saturday, December 28 in the late afternoon (specific time TBD). Visitation with the family will be the evening before on Friday, December 27 at Walter's funeral home. Look to the Courier or church email this week for confirmation of times.

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.

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.

Rural Revival will meet on December 30 at 8:00 p.m. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome to attend. The education topic this month will be presented by Myles Brockmueller. He will be discussing his experiences with no-till farming.

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

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

“Advent”

A good way to experience Advent is through the four major fine arts – pictures, poetry, music and stories. There seems to be a clearer vision, an enrichment of Christ through the eyes and hands of the artist. The sacred story told in colors on canvas bring visible the Divine. Religious art in all forms affects the human soul. Through the fine arts one can see, feel, and discover the Christ, the love, the light, the beauty of God so richly incarnate in Jesus Christ. All the fine arts proclaim the Ever-Present Christ to be the world’s masterpiece.

In the human heart there is a love of the beautiful. We are made so we respond to the “ideal – which is Christ.” An example of this is in the music and words in the hymn “Beautiful Savior.”

Through the years Christians in every generation have used this time, especially to look deeply into the self and also have come together in community in love for Him.

During this Advent season, I encourage you to surround yourself with the arts and scripture to discover anew the immeasurable beauty, joy, love, that can be found only in the life of our resurrected lord, Jesus Christ.

~contributed by Dawn Stahl

Poinsettias were given. . .

In honor of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren from Jake & Irene Gross

In Loving memory of . . .

Roger Waltner from Peg Waltner & Family

Virginia Kaufman from Brad & Kris Carlson & Family

Marvin & Pearl Waltner, Dorothy Kingsley, Valerie Woods & Karla Whisenant from Kevin & Amy Waltner

Ray & Rosie Hofer, Jackson Vetch, Lou Ann Julius from the David & Cindy Graber Family

John Koch from Cheryl Koch, Kristen & Michael, Laura, Justin & August

Vernon, Irene & Randy Gering from the Gering Family

Denny Halvorson from his family

Betty Schmeichel, Charley & Celia Fliginger, Mabel & Johnny H. Waltner from Rodney & Vernetta Waltner

John & Dorothy Waltner, Dell & Betty Waltner from their families

Ryan Graber & Jerry Graber from their family

Dr. Ernest & Elsie Hofer and Gloria & Merle Miller from Dawn Stahl

Karen Cressman from her family

I Corinthians 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

. . . In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

~anonymous