



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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December 29, 2019

The Fifth Day of Christmas ☺

I. GATHERED FOR PRAISE

Prelude

I Saw Three Ships – arr. Walters

Welcome & Call to Worship

Christmas Carols

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” blue HWB #212

“Oh, How Joyfully” blue HWB #209

Children’s Focus

Music for Worship

Candle Lighting

the Christ candle

Letters from Bethlehem

Jesus, the Christ

Invocation Carol

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

II. RECEIVING GOD’S WORD

Hearing Scripture

Matthew 1:18-2:18

Sermon

“Finding baby Jesus in the turmoil”

III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST’S COMING

Offering

General Fund

Lo, How A Rose – arr. Walters

Congregational Sharing & Prayers

- ❖ We give thanks for the gift of joyful feelings that many experience at this time of year with family and holiday memories and **we pray for comfort for those lonely or sad** in this same season; may the good news of Jesus, God With Us, fill us with a profound joy and light that transcends our circumstances as we enter 2020.

- ❖ We pray for God's **clarity of call for the next CPMC Executive Conference Minister** through Central Plains' search process; may the members of the search team (including Chris Eisenbeis and Marilyn Brockmueller) receive Spirit-led wisdom for discernment.
- ❖ We pray for Christ's peace on earth for **Bethlehem** and **Nazareth** in **Israel-Palestine**, the conflicted home towns of Jesus; may the Holy Spirit continue guiding Mennonite Churches seeking to be partners for justice and peace for all peoples "on whom God's favor rests."

IV. SENT WITH THE SPIRIT'S JOY

Sending Hymn

Once In Royal David's City red MH #466

Benediction

Postlude

Ding Don Merrily on High – acc. Oxley

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Adult S.S. Offering Today
 Offering Next Sunday
 Children's S.S. Offering

Bethany Food Pantry
 Salem Sunday School
 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.

NEXT SUNDAY, January 5

Speaker: Pastor Nick; **Worship Leader:** Barb Tieszen; **Musicians:** Marilyn Brockmueller (organ); **Greeters:**; **Offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference; **Nursery:** Marilyn Brockmueller; **Coffee:** North East #18

COMING EVENTS

January 5 – Epiphany Sunday Communion

January 6 – Deacon Board Meeting

January 7 – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting, **7:30 p.m.** – Prayer Meeting

January 10 – Deacon Board Supper at Vernetta's

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

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

It was such a joy to receive your Christmas greetings! Thank you for taking the time to relay them! May the blessings and joy of this Christmas season now also be with you throughout the coming year. Phyllis Reimer

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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.

Freeman Academy constituents are invited to a Town Hall Meeting in the Dining Hall on Saturday, January 11 following FA basketball games (approximately 3:30 pm). Among the board's primary agenda as the new year begins are: 1) negotiating terms of a triple net lease with the museum, 2) continuing to incorporate restorative justice techniques to strengthen community within our constituency and within our classrooms, and 3) promoting our school through positive and consistent messaging. Board members and administration will be present to answer questions and hear feedback on these and any other topics of interest or concern to constituents. A soup supper to benefit the FA Chamber Choir will also be served from 12-3 p.m.

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

Matthew 1:18-2 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”^[d] (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[e] from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler

who will shepherd my people Israel.”^[f]”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”^[g]

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”^[h]

