



**Salem
Mennonite
Church**

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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January 5, 2020

Epiphany Sunday: Our Light Has Come

I. GATHERED IN CHRIST'S LIGHT

Prelude

Arrangements of "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"
(*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*)
– JC Bach, G.F. Kauffmann and S. Wenté

Christ Candle & Call to Worship

Isaiah 60:1-6

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.**

See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,

**but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.**

Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;**
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

**Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;**

the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.

**And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.**

Invocation & Praise

"Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" purple SS #32

Welcome & Prayer

Children's Focus

The Magi Searching

Letters from Bethlehem from Jesus: Crucified Christ, Light of the World

Congregational Sharing

- ❖ 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 empower churches to be God's messengers for justice and peace for all peoples "on whom God's favor rests."
- ❖ Seeing the Herods of today's world, we plead for God's protection for **vulnerable children and their mothers** in our state, country, and all over the world; may God see and respond in mercy to "Rachel weeping for her children"— those born or unborn facing abuse and violence, poverty, suffering or other dangers.

Offering: Laying Our Prayers & Gifts at Jesus' Feet

Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC)
"We Three Kings of Orient Are" – arr. J.H. Hopkins

II. SEARCHING GOD'S WORD

Hearing Scripture

Matthew 1:18-2:18

Sermon – Ben Brockmueller

"Finding baby Jesus in the turmoil"

Receiving Communion

III. SENT WITH THE SPIRIT'S JOY

Sending Hymn

"Bright and Glorious is the Sky" blue HWB #219

Benediction

Postlude

"March of the Three Kings" – arr. S. Landon

Greeters: David & Cindy Graber; **Musicians:** Marilyn Brockmueller (organ);
Worship Leader: Barb Tieszen; **Speaker:** Ben Brockmueller; **Nursery:** MeKayla Preheim or Tracy Petersen; **Coffee:** North East #18

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

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

Salem Sunday School
Camper Scholarships
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.

THIS WEEK

Mon. (6th), 7:00 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting in the Conference Room

Tues. (7th) – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting, **7:30 p.m.** – Prayer Meeting

Jan. (10th), 6:30 p.m. – Deacon Board Supper at Vernetta's

NEXT SUNDAY, January 12

Speaker: Pastor Nick; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organ), Treyton Waltner; **Greeters:** David & Cindy Graber; **Offering:** Mennonite Mission Network; **Nursery:** Erika Detweiler; **Coffee:** North East #18

COMING EVENTS

January 10-12 – 5th & 6th Retreat at Swan Lake

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

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias. Please take them home after the service today.

Lola (Regier) Wiebe Friesen (94) died November 21, 2019 in N. Newton, KS. Lola's first spouse was former pastor Willard Wiebe who died in 1967 while serving Salem Mennonite.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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.

MDS is looking for anyone willing to spend a week in Oklahoma to rebuild a house destroyed by flooding. Duane Ries is planning to go help sometime during the second half of January. All food and lodging will be provided. If you have any questions, or are interested in going, please contact Dennis, Karl or Duane.

The Great Winter Warmup event is coming! Who wants to be a part of something BIG? Et Cetera Shoppe is sponsoring an old-fashioned “quilting bee” of sorts, sometimes known as a “comforter blitz”, on Saturday, January 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Freeman Community Center (snow date – January 25). During this time, we will join volunteers at over 40 locations across the U.S. and Canada, who will come together on this date to attempt to tie 6500 relief comforters for Mennonite Central Committee in just one day! MCC distributes these comforters to people in disaster situations in the U.S. and around the world who lack basic necessities. Recipients use comforters as bed covers, room dividers, carpets, curtains, wraps, mattresses and more. This is a “come and go” event, so drop in at any time and stay for as little or as long as you like. You do not need to know how to sew, or know anything about the comforter-making process, to join in the fun! Please consider helping to meet a tremendous need by volunteering some of your time on this day. If you cannot join us, but would like to make a monetary donation toward the cost of comforter materials, please call the Et Cetera Shoppe at 925-7098.

SCHMECKFEST NOTES

The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will be making noodles for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen and meals on Saturday, January 18 and Tuesday, January 21 in the Pioneer Hall kitchen starting at 9 a.m. If a “snow date” is needed, we will also make noodles on Tuesday, January 28. Cancellations will be announced on the *Courier* and Freeman Academy websites. Volunteers to help make noodles would be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship.

Schmeckfest sign up sheets for food and workers have been put out in the fellowship hall and will be there through January. Please sign up for the food items you would be willing to bring and also where you would like to work preparing the meal. Cash donations for groceries would also be appreciated. Schmeckfest is March 20-21 and 27-28. Thank you! South Church Schmeckfest Food Committee

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

