



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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November 30, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Overture from *"The Messiah"* - Handel

Choral Call to Worship

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" – arr. Larkin

Call to Worship

Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving

and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

"Here All Nations" – HWB # 296

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Advent's Holy Light" - Raney

Confession of Sin (in unison)

HWB # 692

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Anthem

"Come, Messiah"- Larson

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2:10-22 (NIV); Rev. 7:9-17 (ESV)

Matthew 24:23-31 (ESV)

Sermon

"Hope Through Tribulation"

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Welcome to Membership – Elizabeth Waltner

HWB # 794

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of Bread and Cup from the Lord's Table

"O Come Immanuel"

Verse 1 – HWB #172

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

"O How Shall I Receive Thee" – HWB # 182

Benediction

HWB # 789

Postlude

"Besancon Carol" - Callahan

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Marge Waltner; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Marilyn Brockmueller & Cheryle Gering (handbells); Brittney Kempf (trumpet); Brooklyn Ries (drum); Sonja Waltner (finger cymbals); Chancel Choir (special music); **Candle Lighters:** Luke, Katelyn & Scottlyn Hurley; **Coffee:** Classroom #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer and Fasting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>

- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

Tuesday, December 2, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library

Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Ladies Ensemble

Saturday, December 6, 2:00 p.m. – Bethel Church Christmas Carol Sing-Along

NEXT SUNDAY, Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Paul Balzer; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** (organist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); **Candle Lighters:** Brittney & Brooklyn Ries; **Coffee:** Classroom #10

Sunday, December 7, following a noon potluck meal – Annual Business Meeting

Worship Offering: Harvest Thank Offering

Sunday School Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 10, 1:30 p.m. – Freeman Network for Justice & Peace at Freeman Public Library

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Church Photo Directory – Thanks to all of the folks who have sent in photos or taken photos on Sunday mornings. We will continue to receive photos during the month of December. If you are not tech savvy, have a family member who is take your photo during the upcoming holidays and have them send it to Vernetta in the office.

Poinsettias – If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one to share with the congregation during the Advent season, please contact Cheryl at Fensels Greenhouse and they will deliver it to the church.

The annual Senior Giving Tree is set up in our narthex. Cards and instructions will also be available at Norm's Thrifty-White, Jamboree Foods and Salem Mennonite Church. The deadline for returning gifts is December 15. Thank you in advance for bringing joy to the residents of the Freeman Nursing Home and Assisted Living! -- SMC Mission and Service Team

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

All local bakers are invited to bake peppernut (pfferrnuesse) cookies for the Et Cetera Shoppe to sell. Every year this is a huge boost to our end-of-year giving to the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Peppernuts can be baked using your favorite recipe and brought to the shop in pails or ziploc bags, anytime between now and Thanksgiving - we take it from there! Consider ushering in the holiday season by having a peppernut bee with your family, Sunday School class, grandchildren, book club or pickleball team!

“Christmas at the Bethel Church” begins Nov. 28 at Heritage Hall Museum & Archives and continues through Dec. 31. Businesses, organizations and families have brought decorated Christmas trees to the church located on the museum grounds. The Bethel Mennonite Church was built about two miles east of Dolton in 1920. It was moved to the museum grounds in 1992 after the congregation had disbanded.

A free admission Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be held at the church on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 6 starting at 2 p.m. This year’s sing-along will include special music from students from Freeman Academy and Freeman High School.

The museum and the church are open from noon to 4 p.m. weekday afternoons. The decorated church is open to museum guests, mercantile customers and by donation; access is available at the museum lobby.

In addition, the museum will be open on the first three Saturdays of December (6, 13 and 20) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to give additional opportunity to visit the church, tour the museum and explore the HHM&A Mercantile, which features items created by local artisans. The museum will be open from 10 to noon on Christmas Eve and be closed both Dec. 25 and 26 and on Jan. 1.

HHM&A is also encouraging churches, businesses, organizations and families to use the Bethel Church as a venue for their own special programs during the holiday season. Stop in, call 605-925-7545 or email info@heritagehallmuseum.com for more information.

Swan Lake Christian Camp 2026 Winter Retreats are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows 5th-8th Grade Retreat/January 16-18, 8th-12th Grade Retreat/January 9-11. Sign up online at www.myslcc.com

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com

THE COMMUNION OF THANKSGIVING

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We come in grateful celebration of Jesus' cross and resurrection, giving from our receiving, inviting as we have been invited, serving as we are served, renewing our bond to the narrow way of Jesus. There is room at his table for all who follow Jesus in God's covenant of grace and obedience.

The Lord is God, compassionate and gracious, overflowing in loving mercy and steadfast kindness. Blessed be God, now and forever!

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hills are now united on this table in bread and drink, so Lord, may we be made a true community of your Spirit as your Body on earth, and may your whole people soon be gathered together from across the earth in your Kingdom of holy peace.

Come, Lord Jesus! To you be glory forever!

Let us raise our hearts, and give thanks to the Lord our God.

**We raise up our thanks and praise to the Lord,
because he is good; his love is eternal.**

Truly, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty and Ever-living God. You created all things out of sheer grace for your glory, you send redemption from slavery and sin when we reject your grace, and you call us into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles. So we sing,

Blessed be the Lord God, holy and mighty!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, our king and redeemer, sent into our world to fulfill your promises, to satisfy our yearnings for hope, to bring freedom to captives, healing for the broken, and light to the nations. You sent him as a servant among the poor, sharing human suffering, to be your presence among us, Emmanuel. In the fullness of time, in humble obedience, he came in a manger and left on a cross, and we rejoice that in his death and resurrection, you set before us the sure promise of reconciliation, signs of new life in freedom from sin and death, the work of your Spirit in his Body, and the certain hope of his return in your full kingdom.

Blessed are you, Creator Spirit, who makes all things new!

Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us. For on the night that he was betrayed, during supper, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." So in praise and thanksgiving, we offer to you ourselves and all these gifts, that we may be a holy and living sacrifice, dedicated to your service, in union with Christ's saving self offering for us and the whole world.

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship and thank you,
O Lord our God.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this communion, on us gathered here and on these gifts, that the sharing of this bread and cup may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify and fill us with your true presence, that in all our lives we may be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. As we share your presence anew at this table of your giving, let us share your presence with the world in the giving of our lives and selves, in your service for all people. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one in fellowship with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at your heavenly table with all your saints, when all your promises become presence. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN.