

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

* Call to Worship

Yes!

The light is here. We carry it within us.

***It is the star of the East;
it is the morning sun.***

It is as long as the moon,
throughout all generations.

Praise the Lord!

You, O God, have caused
the mountains to shake.

You have torn open the heavens,
and your glory reaches the earth.

***May we, like the magi,
seek you until we find you.***

***May we offer our gifts in your presence,
no matter where you are found.***

Yes! Let your mystery be declared.

* Lighting of Advent Candle

* Hymn *Come and be light for our eyes* STJ 5
Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD

Hymn *Let there be light, Lord God* STJ 67
Offering

PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12
Dramatic Reading "Once Upon a Border"
Scripture Reading Mark 1:4-7
Sermon
Reflection

RESPONDING

* Hymn *Arise, your light is come* STS 30

Confession

O God,

***your light has come, your glory risen,
and your brightness dawned,
illuminating not only the way of the magi,
but all our paths.***

***From your fullness we have received grace upon grace
as your mystery has been revealed
and your presence made known.***

***Now we too are called to arise, shine,
and return by another road.***

Yet we confess that

***instead of lifting our eyes and searching diligently,
instead of walking with boldness and confidence,
instead of revealing and proclaiming your presence,
we cling to what we have and know,
and we continue on our old, familiar ways home.***

***We are frightened by the unknown,
and by the darkness that covers the earth.***

Forgive us.

(pause for silence)

Words of Assurance

O God, Emmanuel,
in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING

* Sending Hymn *Be thou my vision* HWB 545

* Benediction
Postlude

* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.
Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.*

HWB – blue hymnal STS – purple hymnal STJ – green hymnal

*Preacher: Charles Bontrager Worship Leader: Bobbie Mohr
Accompanist: John Gamin*

Epiphany “Yes! Let It Be Declared” Drawn by the light, we, like the magi, are sent forth in new directions. We are empowered to be God’s illuminating presence in the world. Arise, shine, for the mystery of Christ has been revealed!

Welcome to First Mennonite Church If you are new here today, we’re glad you can worship with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you!

Wednesday 6:00pm you are invited to a Fellowship Meal in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting. Worship Team will follow.

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ’s salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

LOOKING AHEAD*

TUES 1/9 Deacons Meeting

WED 1/10 Worship Team

SUN 1/14 Communion Sunday

WED 1/17 Steering Team

SAT 1/20 3pm Winterfest at the Newcomer farm

SUN 2/4 Annual Meeting and carry in lunch

🕒 THURS 1/11 Ray Miller, Pat Kilmer

🕒 TUES 1/9 Alia Saunders

First Mennonite Church

405 Trease Road

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Charles Bontrager, Pastor

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Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

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WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
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