

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

* Call to Worship

Yes!

We will give thanks and rejoice!

***We will praise the Lord from the heavens,
from the heights, and with the angels!***

We praise the Lord with the sun and moon!

We praise the Creator of the shining stars!

Fire and hail! Snow and frost!

Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!

Young men and women alike!

Children and the aged ones too!

Let us praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

Yes! Let all things be new.

* Lighting of Advent Candle

* Hymn *O come, all ye faithful*

HWB 212

Opening Prayer

PRAISING GODHymn *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

HWB 211

Offering

PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading Galatians 4:4-7

Woodworker's Visit

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

Reflection

RESPONDING* Hymn *What child is this*

HWB 215

Confession

O God,

the waiting is over, the time has come:

you dwell among us!

We marvel at the mystery of your birth.

We are filled and guided by the Spirit

as you open our eyes, our hearts,

and our arms to receive you.

Yes, we say, and yet we confess that

instead of being drawn beyond our knowing,

into the call of your infinite light,

we examine your coming

within the boundaries of our understanding.

We confess that

instead of marveling at the vastness of your mercy,

instead of rejoicing with Simeon and Anna,

instead of allowing your Spirit

to move within and among us,

we resist the mystery of your presence.

We confess our struggle to step forth

with vulnerability, honesty, courage,

dreams, hope, and celebration

emanating from the depth of our hearts.

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 *Joy to the world*

HWB 318

* 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: Jan Croyle

Accompanist: John Gamin

Christmas “Yes! Let It Be New” We marvel at the vastness of God’s plan. We celebrate in exuberant praise what God has done and will continue to do.

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!

TODAY you are invited to stay for our Coffeehouse program for food and entertainment following the worship service.

Wednesday 6:00pm you are invited to a Soup & Games Night in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a soup to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting and stay for games.

The new **2018 usher calendar** for the year is posted on the back window. Please sign up for any month you would like to usher, we especially need ushers for January. Thank you for signing up and serving the church. ~Ray Miller

*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*

SUN 12/31 12pm Coffee House

WED 1/3 Soup & Games Night

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

🕒 MON 1/1 *Cliff Lowe*

🕒 WED 1/3 *Mackenzie Albaugh, Charles Bontrager*

First Mennonite Church

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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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