

FIRST  
MENNONITE  
CHURCH

December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve  
"The Inn"



Prelude

Tonya Ramer Wenger  
Arwen Iwashige  
Sadie Nisly

Welcome & Announcements  
WE OPEN THE DOOR

Delon Martens

Love comes to us at Christmas  
Love comes to heal our souls.  
Love brings an invitation  
that our hearts might be made whole.  
As we gather at the stable  
in the darkness, glad and grateful  
for the sacred in our midst,  
for wonder and delight,  
Christ is born in us this night.  
(original song by Amanda Udis-Kessler)

Magdalena Wenger, guitar  
Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger, song leader

Lighting the Advent Candles & Christ Candle  
(repeat *Love comes to us at Christmas*)

Lucia and Hilda Iwashige

HYMN

*Joy to the World* HWB 318

Children's Time

Delon Martens

Make room for light.  
Make room for light.  
Jesus is coming, make room for light.

The Prophecy

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Micah Wenger

HYMN

*What Child is This?* HWB 215

The Story

*Luke 2:1-7*

Hannah Nisly

PRAYERS of the People

*"Make of My Heart a Stable"*

(original song by Amanda Udis-Kessler)

The Story continues ...

*Luke 2:8-20*

Tonya

HYMN

*Away in a manger (traditional tune)*

### Prayer of Dedication for Infant Care Kits

50 Infant Care Kits have been put together and paid for by donations from the congregation. These kits will be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee to families in need around the world. Additional donations are welcome toward this project; you can leave your donations in the offering plate on the back table. Checks can be made out to First Mennonite Church with “Infant Care Kits” in the memo line.

### Closing Carol & Candle Lighting ... *Silent Night*

Candle light will be passed from those at the end of each pew on the inner aisle. Please **slide your cup down and tip the UN-lit candle toward the upright already lit candle** to minimize dripping of wax. Once your candle is lit, hold it upright to share light with others, and then slide your cup back up to fully enclose the flame. When the lights are turned off, the congregation will sing *Silent Night* together – the words will be on the screen.

### Benediction

After the benediction the service will conclude. There are baskets in the back for you to put your candles as you leave. Go with assurance of our prayers as we celebrate the birth of Christ – God-with-us. Filled with God’s hope, peace, joy and love we turn with trust toward the dawning of a new year.

Sound System: Earl Ediger  
Live Stream Tech: Jonathan Wenger  
Ushers: Pauline Buller, Joretta Martens  
Advent Visuals Team: Pauline Buller, Esther Regier, Marlene Thode, Mary Wade, Fred Wade  
Advent Worship Theme & Resources: Worship Design Studio

*Merry Christmas!*

Holy Child within the manger,  
lead us ever in your way,  
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living give us strength  
to live as you,  
that our hearts might be forgiving  
and our spirits strong and true.

(Marty Haugen – *Holy Child within the manger* STS 28 v.3)