



Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022

GATHERING IN...

Prelude

Grounding Moment: "Instructions for a Hard Choice"
(a poem written by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Gathering Words & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy: "What brings you joy?"

Readers: Ryker Wiens, Arwen Iwashige, Russ Gaeddert, Marlene Thode

HYMN *Hark! The Glad Sound!* VT 217

PRAYING...

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of mercy,
a million times a day
we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others,
to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.
Fear and greed kick in.
Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.
Forgive us for forgetting
that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting

that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness
HYMN *Love Has Come* VT 258

LISTENING...

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination & Scripture Reading
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 1:18:26
Sermon

RESPONDING...

Music for Meditation
Prayers of the People

Worship Music: *Alleluia for Advent* . . . Music: David Lantz III
Text: John Parker

SENDING...

Benediction
A Christmas Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* VT 247

Ushers: Glenda & Rick Hooper
Sound: Adam Pounds
Livestream: Joel Iwashige
Nursery: Anna Crable
Piano: Peggy Stucky
Choir: Calvin Buller, director; Pauline Buller, accompanist
Worship Leader: Maggie Pounds
Song Leader: Jonathan Wenger
Children's Time: Nick Krehbiel
Scripture Reader: Jean Gaeddert
Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Words for Worship: *Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

Welcome!!

"This Advent, may you remember that you belong – to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go."

(The Sanctified Art Creative Team)



The Courageous Choice

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25 | Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

BABY BUNDLES for MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Shopping has been done, the bundles have been assembled. Three are on display in the foyer. Your donation of \$25.00 each will send the bundles on their way. Make your checks out to First Mennonite Church, and write "Baby Bundles" in the memo.

DECEMBER 21 WEDNESDAY EVENING @ FMC EVENTS

Gather at church to remember loved ones who have died in the past year, eat supper together, and then go Christmas Caroling in the church neighborhood. You can come to one or more of the events. Schedule is as follows:

5:45pm Longest Night Service in the sanctuary (livestream is planned)

6:30pm Soup Supper

7:15pm Christmas Caroling in the church neighborhood (dessert and hot drinks following)

CHRISTMAS EVE (7pm ON DEC 24) WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us (in person or on livestream) in the traditions of playing the Krystal Bells and of the candle-lit singing of Silent Night. New this year will be a Christmas skit performed by our grade school children and a few youth. ***As we have other years, please bring a plate of finger foods (savory or sweet) to share during our fellowship time following the service.***

MINUTES of our BUDGET and ANNUAL MEETING are available by contacting the church office. A summary is posted in THIS WEEK on our website.

STILL LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT CHRISTMAS GIFT? Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and

more. Give at mcc.org/delight, call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street.



**First Mennonite Church
Hutchinson KS**

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

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