



**How God Shows Up** by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

*From Generation to Generation...  
We Tell This Story*

**Christmas Eve 2022**  
First Mennonite Church \* Hutchinson KS

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Prelude** Lucia Iwashige, Arwen Iwashige, Bailey Krehbiel, and others

**Grounding Moment:** *Every Year* (a poem written by Rev. Sarah Speed)

**HYMN** *Love Has Come* VT 258

## Advent Candle Lighting

Readers: Micah Wenger, Joanna Wenger, Russell Goering, Pauline Buller

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: *"My story is. . ."*

From the voices of different generations, hear their answers.

## KRYSTAL BELLS *O Come All Ye Faithful*

### PRAYING

#### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

**We are not familiar with angel choruses.**

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

**and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.**

We don't fully understand this story,

so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

**we whisper this good news.**

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

**we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.**

Instead of telling the next generation

why this night matters so much,

**we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.**

Forgive us for our silence.

**Forgive us for our hesitation.**

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

**Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

## KRYSTAL BELLS *Child of the Poor/What Child is This?*

### A Christmas Story: *Michael Mouse*

(From: Cloth for the Cradle: Worship resources and readings for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany. Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group. 2000. GIA Publications)

#### Hymns sung during *Michael Mouse*

*Hark the Herald* (verse 1) VT 247

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* (verse 1)

*The First Noel* (verses 1-3) VT 250

*Away in a manger* (verse 1) VT 257

## **Offering for Mennonite Central Committee Infant Care Kits**

40 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 place them in the offering plate as it is passed. Checks can be made out to First Mennonite Church with “Infant Care Kits” in the memo line.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **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 your 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 worship 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.

**You are all invited downstairs to the  
Fellowship Hall  
for drinks, snacks and conversation!**

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Sound System: Earl Ediger

Live Stream Tech: Jonathan Wenger

Ushers: Susan Combs, Diane Ziemer

Grounding Moment & Silent Night: Maggie Pounds

Worship Leader/Song Leader: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Organ: Pauline Buller

Guitar: Adam Pounds

Krystal Bells: Cristi Dirks and impromptu volunteers

“Michael Mouse” Cast: Narrator (Delon Martens); Michael Mouse (Reuben Wenger);

Owl (Bailey Krehbiel); Sheep (Joanna Wenger, Lucia Iwashige);

Cows (Arlo Pounds, Javion Crable, Jaxton Crable); Hen (Arwen Iwashige);

Cat (Duncan Krehbiel); Joseph (Jalen Crable), Mary (Annika Franscino)

Advent Worship Theme & Resources: A Sanctified Art

(Poems and Prayers written by Rev. Sarah Speed)

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# Merry Christmas!

“Each year, we tell this story because it is raw with joy, pain, and the complexities of being human. No matter how your story is unfolding, may you find that this sacred story holds space for you. For this is how God shows up—in a child who cries, in hands that hold, in human flesh, in life and in death.” —Lisle Gwynn Garrity (A Sanctified Art)