



First Sunday of Advent * December 3, 2023

***How does a weary world rejoice?
We acknowledge our weariness.***

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL...

Prelude *(Adults are invited to place ornaments on the tree during the prelude and gathering Christmas singing. Children/youth should wait till later in the service)*

Gathering Christmas Singing

Joy to the World (verses 1, 2, and 4) VT 240

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verses 1, 2) VT 243

Grounding Moment: *The Last Time I Saw God**

Call to Worship*

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* (verses 1-3, 7) VT 210

During this hymn, we invite all the children and youth with ornaments to hang to come forward and add them to the tree.

Fellowship Greeting

HYMN *Hope is a Candle* (verse 1) VT 211

Candle Lighting Liturgy*

WE TELL GOD'S STORY

Worship Music *With Mary Sing Magnificat* (VT 208)

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "*How can this be?*"

God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination*

Scripture Reading: *Luke 1:1-23; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Announcements

WE GO REJOICING!

HYMN *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT 216

Benediction: *How does a weary world rejoice?**

Postlude ... receive the postlude as a musical blessing for the week ahead

**Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Sound: Earl Ediger

Livestream: Jonathan Wenger

Usher: Cheryl Warkentin & Marlene Thode

Nursery: Adam & Maggie Pounds

Organist: Pauline Buller

Chancel Choir Director: Calvin Buller

Song Leader: Trae Gehring

Worship Leader: Stephanie Gehring

Poem and Scripture Reader, Candle Lighting: Jean Gaeddert, Russ Gaeddert

Children's Time: DeAnna Goering

Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Artwork on front of bulletin: *Make Your Face Shine* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; A Sanctified Art

TODAY: *Fellowship time in basement Fellowship Hall* following worship.

11:00am Sunday School for all ages. *Salt & Light* study group will meet in the basement classroom; the discussion class in Common Grounds Room.

Silent Auction Fundraiser! Bid high . . bid often!! Bidding takes place today 9:00-9:30, and 10:30-11:00am. Bidding continues 12 noon -12:45. Thank you!!

NOON Fundraiser Lunch provided by Senior Youth in the fellowship hall

Annual Meeting @ 12:45pm for all (childcare provided in Common Grounds)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Dec 8 – Singing Group @ Wenger’s:** 6pm potluck/7pm singing
 - **Dec 21 – 6:00pm** Longest Night Service (also livestreamed); **6:45pm** Soup Supper **7:30pm** (approx.) Christmas Caroling (*bring desserts/snacks to share afterwards!*)
- **Dec 24 – 9:30am** Sunday morning worship;
7pm Christmas Eve worship with a simple children’s program, candle lighting and more (*bring finger foods to share after the service*)

Christmas Giving Opportunities:

- **Salthawk Community Support** – monetary contributions for Christmas sacks for students. Deadline is Dec 1 (but still give this week!). Details in *This Week @ FMC* on our website.
- **Hat, Mitten, & Just Simply Socks Tree** in our church foyer (*to be donated to Salvation Army*)
- **MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Baby Bundles** – a \$25 contribution per bundle.



First Mennonite Church - Hutchinson KS

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-2pm; Wed 10-1pm

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