

Third Sunday of Advent Dec 17, 2023

How does a weary world rejoice?

We allow ourselves to be amazed

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL...

Prelude

Opening Words & Call to Worship*

Our God can part the sea.

GOD CAN BRING WATER FROM A ROCK, AND PROVIDE BREAD IN THE DESERT.

Our God can walk on water.

HE CAN HEAL THE SICK, AND TURN WATER INTO WINE.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

GOD HEARS OUR VOICE WHEN WE CRY, AND IS CLOSER THAN OUR OWN BREATH.

There is nothing our God cannot do.

LET US STAND IN AWE. LET US WORSHIP GOD WITH WONDER.

HYMN Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee VT 215 Fellowship Greeting

HYMN Hope is a Candle (verse 3 - Love) VT 211 Candle Lighting Liturgy*

WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Prayers of the People* & Lord's Prayer

WE TELL GOD'S STORY Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Choir Once in Royal David's City

arr. John Leavitt

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19 Micah Wenger God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

HYMN Bless'd Be the God of Israel VT 223

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18

Jacob Unruh

God promises to Abraham that because of his faithfulness, all nations of the earth will be blessed.

HYMN It Came upon a Midnight Clear VT 248

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Aphid Sylvester

The prophet proclaims the coming of the Savior.

Choir Emmanuel, Expected Jesus

15th c. French carol, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9

Sadie Nisly

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

HYMN Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT 218

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-33; 38

Micah Wenger

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir With Mary Sing Magnificat

text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, music: English trad.

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Jacob Unruh

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Choir Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish carol setting by John Leavitt

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16

Aphid Sylvester

The shepherds go to the manger.

HYMN Still, Still, Still VT 264

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

Sadie Nisly

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

HYMN As With Gladness VT 277

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Micah Wenger

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Choir Jesus, what a wonderful child

African-American Spiritual arr. Lloyd Larson

WE GO REJOICING!

Benediction: How does a weary world rejoice?*

Sending HYMN Joy to the World VT 240

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

Sound: Earl Ediger
Livestream: Jay Gehring

Ushers: Susan Combs & Joretta Martens Nursery: TBA Organist & Choir Accompanist: Pauline Buller

Chancel Choir Director: Calvin Buller Choir soloists: Lucia Iwashige, Joanna Wenger

Song Leader: Jonathan Wenger Worship Leader: Delon Martens

Candle Lighting: Delon and Joretta Martens

Scripture Readers: Micah Wenger, Jacob Unruh, Aphid Sylvester, Sadie Nisly Artwork on front of bulletin: What Wonder Turns Into by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; A Sanctified Art

TODAY: *Fellowship time in Common Grounds* following worship.

11:00am Sunday School for all ages. Adults meet in fellowship hall with Eldon and Jane Wagler, telling of their work in Malawi and Zambia with Mennonite Central Committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec 21 6:00pm Longest Night Service (also livestreamed); 6:45pm Soup Supper for ALL **7:30pm** (approx.) Christmas Caroling (bring desserts/snacks to share afterwards!)
- Dec 24 9:30am Sunday morning worship; **7pm** Christmas Eve worship with a children's program, candle lighting, Kristal Bells, singing, dedication of Baby Bundles, and more (bring finger foods to share after the service)
- Dec 31 Sunday morning worship + Journaling/Prayer after worship. Join Pastor Tonya in the fellowship hall after worship for a guided journaling practice especially appropriate for the last day of the year! Childcare will be provided. RSVP's helpful.
- Jan 7 Epiphany & Star Words (hearing reflections from 2023 and receiving 2024 Star *Words).* Send your 2023 Star Word reflections to Pastor Tonya by Jan 3 to be included in the worship service (shared anonymously).

Christmas Giving Opportunities:

*Salthawk Community Support Santa Sacks: The Santa Sacks for Hutchinson High School and HMS8 have been prepared Needs among students in our community continue. Contributions all year long are appreciated. Checks can be directed to Salthawk Community Support and mailed to 1602 North Main Street, Hutchinson KS 67501. Or, you can donate safely online at the giving page of www.trinityhutch.org or use Trinity's Venmo account at Trinity UMC-Hutch. All donations are fully tax deductible.

*Hat, Mitten, and Simply Socks Tree in the foyer is ready to receive new hats, gloves and socks for distribution at the Salvation Army.

*MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Baby Bundles: 65 bundles have been assembled! A donation of \$25 covers the cost of one bundle. Make your donations by check or online to First Mennonite Church with "Baby Bundles" in the memo line. These bundles will be dedicated on Christmas Eve and then delivered to MCC in Newton to be sent around the world. Look for the basket on the table in the foyer to see what items are included in a baby 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 Website: www.hutchfmc.org

Office email address: office@hutchfmc.org Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger: tonya@hutchfmc.org Pastor Jim Unruh: jhunruh.ju@gmail.com