



**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.*



### **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](http://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](http://www.hutchfmc.org)

Office email address: [office@hutchfmc.org](mailto:office@hutchfmc.org)

Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger: [tonya@hutchfmc.org](mailto:tonya@hutchfmc.org)

Pastor Jim Unruh: [jhunruh.ju@gmail.com](mailto:jhunruh.ju@gmail.com)