



How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We make room

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24, 2023
7:00pm

Prelude

Grounding Moment: *There is Room**

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

There is room for you here.

If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

**If you're tired and lost,
or wrapped up in hope.**

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

**Come in, come in.
There is room for you here.**

'The angels are singing,

"Be not afraid."

The angels are singing,

"Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

Hymn *O come, all ye faithful* VT 241

Candle Lighting Liturgy

How does a weary world hold onto hope,

practice peace, spread joy, or know love?
How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into
our bleakest night?
**We do all these things with God's help.
For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.**

Tonight, Christ draws near.
Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, we are not alone.
**God is near. Love has drawn close.
Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen.**

Hymn *Love Has Come* VT 258

**Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession**

*Loving Christ,
Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable
because there was no room in the inn.
There was no room in the inn for a woman in need,
no room in the inn for an innocent baby.
Forgive us.
We should have learned our lesson by now,
but just as others turned their backs on you,
we continue to turn our backs on one another.
Teach us how to make room for one another.
Teach us how to make room for you.
Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,
for we do not want to build hostility here.
We want to build your promised day.
Guide us forward.
With hope and honesty, we pray, amen.*

Words of Forgiveness

O Holy Night (Kristal Bells)

Prayer of Illumination
Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:1-20*
HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* VT 249

The Message of the Birds

(Text by Kate Westerlund. Illustrations by Feridun Oral. minedition, a division of Astra Publishing House. 2011. Used with permission.)

Joy to the World (Kristal Bells)

Offering – MCC Infant Care Kits: “Baby Bundles”

Tonight, we dedicate 65 Infant Care Kits to be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee to families in need around the world. You can still donate toward this project! Leave a donation in the basket at the back (*checks made out to First Mennonite designated for Baby Bundles*) or make a designated online donation (@ hutchfmc.org).

Prayer of Dedication**

Closing Carol & Candle Lighting ... *Silent Night*

Please **slide your cup down and tip the 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, we'll sing ***Silent Night*** together (lyrics on screen).

Benediction – *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

After the benediction we invite you to make your way to the basement fellowship hall for fellowship and snacks. There are baskets in the back for you to put your candles in as you leave.

*All Prayers/Liturgy written by: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | sanctifiedart.org

**Adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

Sound: Earl Ediger

Livestream: Jonathan Wenger

Ushers: Russell Goering, Susan Combs

Prelude/Offertory: Joanna Wenger, Arwen Iwashige, Lucia Iwashige, Micah Wenger, Magdalena Wenger

Hymns: Pauline Buller

Worship Leader: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Scripture Reader: Jalen Crable

Kristal Bells Director: Cristi Dirks

The Message of the Birds: Delon Martens, Javion Crable, Jaxton Crable, Arlo Pounds, Arwen Iwashige, Lucia Iwashige, Joanna Wenger

(planned/directed by Maggie Pounds, Hilda Iwashige, Julie Goering)

Silent Night: led by Maggie and Adam Pounds and friends

Artwork on front of bulletin: *Surrogacy* by Hannah Garrity;

A Sanctified Art

Merry Christmas!

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Till he appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees: O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night, O night divine.
(John S. Dwight)



First Mennonite Church - Hutchinson KS

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385

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Love Has Come - UN FLAMBEAU [#62232](#)

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Contributors: Ken Bible

O Come, All Ye Faithful [#592e04d371906](#)

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Contributors: John Wade, Frederick Oakeley, Unknown Traditional

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Angels We Have Heard on High (Les anges dans nos campagnes)

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques (France), 1855; trans. anon.; alt. Earl Marlatt (USA), New Church Hymnal, 1937*

Music: French traditional, *Nouveau recueil de cantiques, 1855*

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent Night, Holy Night)

Text: German; Joseph Mohr (Austria), 1818, *Leipziger Gesangbuch*, 1838; English trans. John F. Young (USA), *The Sunday School Service and Tune Book*, 1863; Spanish trans. Federico Fliedner (Spain), ca. 19th c.

Music: Lewis H. Redner (USA), 1868, *The Church Porch: A Service Book and Hymnal for Sunday Schools*, 1874