



**First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023**

***How does a weary world rejoice?
We root ourselves in ritual***

EMMANUEL ... GOD IS WITH US!

Prelude

Gathering Christmas Singing

O Come, All Ye Faithful VT 241

Joy to the World VT 240

Grounding Moment: *Muscle Memory**

Call to Worship*

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every year we receive Star Words.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* VT 261

Fellowship Greeting & Sharing the Peace of Christ

HYMN *What Child is This?* VT 267

WE TELL GOD’S STORY

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*

God of rhythms, we confess:
our faith would not be what it is without rituals.
Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.
We have to return to this space again and again
to hear old, familiar stories.
For if we stopped,
we know it would not take long before we lost our way.
Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us
ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.
With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

Children’s Time

Prayer for Illumination*

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:21-38*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

WE GO REJOICING!

HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* VT 247

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

*Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God’s beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.*

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
Ushers: Dennis and Jennalee Boggs
Pianist: Shelley Kauffman
Song Leader: Jon Miller
Worship Leader: Anita Kehr
Children's Time: Delon Martens
Scripture Reader: Bryan Kehr
Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger
Nursery: Please feel free us use the nursery, and make sure your children are cared for as we do not have a nursery attendant today
Artwork on front of bulletin: <i>Revelation</i> by Lisle Gwynn Garrity; A Sanctified Art

TODAY: *Fellowship time in Common Grounds* following worship, with cake to celebrate Kris and Joyce Lindenberger's January 1 wedding anniversary!

- Join Pastor Tonya in the fellowship hall beginning about 15 minutes after worship for a guided journaling practice especially appropriate for the last day of the year! Childcare will be provided. We'll finish by noon. If you can't attend but would like the journaling handout, let Pastor Tonya know.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Jan 7 – Epiphany & Star Words** (*hearing reflections from 2023 and receiving 2024 Star Words*). Send your brief 2023 Star Word reflections to Pastor Tonya by Jan 3 to be included in the worship service (shared anonymously). Star Words will be available subsequent Sundays as well (check the foyer for a basket), or one can be mailed to you.
- **Jan 9 – Craft Night** 6:30-8:00pm
- **Jan 21 – Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday** with *One Lunch Offering* for Mennonite World Conference (donate what it would cost you to buy one lunch).
- **Jan 24 – Joint CMT and CT (Coordination Teams) Gathering** 6:30pm
- **Jan 27 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen**



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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Pastor Jim Unruh: jhunruh.ju@gmail.com