



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

December 8, 2024
Advent 2

BEGINNING WITH LOVE

Prelude ... *all adults are invited to put Christmas ornaments on the tree during the prelude and gathering singing.*

Gathering Singing *Joy to the World* VT 240
O Come, All Ye Faithful VT 241

Greetings & Announcements

Call to Worship

In a world that is lonely,
we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,
we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,
we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.
We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.
Light the candles! Sing with joy!
We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

HYMN *Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah!* VT 95

Fellowship Greeting

(stand to share the peace of Christ with those around you)

HEAR GOOD NEWS OF GOD WITH US

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* VT 210

**Children & youth invited to hang name ornaments during this hymn*

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “*turn back,*” as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help.

Can you remind me?

We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way.

*We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,
to kindle our own faiths.*

*We have said a thousand times, “turn back,”
as if we are fine on our own.*

But the days are long and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.

Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN *Wait for the Lord* (repeated) VT 228

Children’s Time

Prayer for Illumination & Scripture Reading

Ruth 1 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Sermon

Music for Meditation

PRAYERS & A POEM

Prayers of the People (*with the Lord's Prayer*)

Poem: *When will you be back?*

SENT TO BEGIN AGAIN

HYMN *Praise God (Doxology)* Stanza B VT 71

Benediction

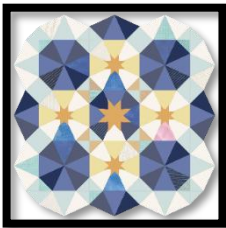
Postlude

A devotional booklet and advent calendar are available in the foyer to accompany and support your Advent Journey this year!!

Words for Worship (Call to Worship, Confession, Prayers, Poem) by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

If you need a hearing assist device, please ask at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

The Nursery is typically staffed with a volunteer care provider during worship (and Sunday School as needed). Children are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary! Worship bags with drawing/coloring materials are provided at the back of the sanctuary.



Sound: Adam Pounds
Livestream: Joel Iwashige
Ushers: Cheryl Warkentin, Marlene Thode
Nursery: Jonathan Wenger
Pianist: Shelley Kauffman
Worship Leader: Joy Miller
Advent Candle Reading/Lighting: Kate Vu, Reuben Wenger
Song Leader: Shane Miller
Scripture Reader: Santalena Caudillo
Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

TODAY:

- **Fellowship** with drinks in fellowship hall
- **Sunday School @ 11:00am** for all ages
- **Mentor & Mentees group** leading worship at Mennonite Friendship Communities at 10:00am
- **Sr. Youth Silent Auction** bidding between worship and Sunday School and 12:00-12:45pm
- **Noon fundraiser lunch** served by the Sr. Youth
- **FMC Annual Meeting @ 12:45pm**

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Children and Adult Choir rehearsals** continue next Wednesday, December 11 (Children also rehearse on December 18)
- **Dec 15:** Lessons & Carols worship service with Adult & Children's Choirs
- **Dec 21:** Longest Night Service – 6:00pm
- **Dec 21:** Soup supper – 6:45pm, followed by Christmas caroling

REJOICE! and **Upper Room** devotional books are available above the mailboxes. You are invited to take one to give focus to your personal/family devotional times.

CHRISTMAS GIVING connections

- Infant Care Bundles for MCC - \$25 per bundle covers cost
- Hats & Mittens Tree for Salvation Army
- Youthrive "Give Joy" Christmas Drive for young adults transitioning to adulthood (see poster on the small table in the foyer)

If you'd like to be added to **our all-church email list** to receive prayer requests and announcements (typically 2 emails/week), please contact the church office or Pastor Tonya.



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