



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —

December 29, 2024
First Sunday After Christmas
Lessons & Laughter

BEGINNING WITH LOVE

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

Call to Worship* -- *What Brings You Joy?*

We have named our joy,
and it is clear—

God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

**Thanks be to God
for the bright hope of this day.**

HYMN *Love Has Come* VT 258

Call to Confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Joyful God, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom
of heaven, we must be like children.

**Did you mean that like children,
we must practice unhindered joy?**

**Did you mean that like children,
we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves
to delight?**

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,
this often seems easier said than done.

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments
when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**Forgive us for hearing the nativity story
and staying in our seats
instead of jumping for joy.**

We know that even now
you are sowing delight in our lives.

Open our hearts up to it.

With gratitude we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

HYMN of Response: *Angels We Have Heard* VT 249

HEAR THE JOY OF GOD WITH US

Prayer for Illumination

LESSON ONE

LISTEN FOR JOY: *Luke 2:10 and Isaiah 9:2-3*

SING WITH JOY: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* VT 252

PRACTICE JOY: **Joy found in Scripture** (Children's Sermon)

LESSON TWO

LISTEN FOR JOY: *Matthew 2:10 and Psalm 148*

SING WITH JOY: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 241

PRACTICE JOY: **Joy Found in Community** (Extended Passing of the Peace)

LESSON THREE

LISTEN FOR JOY *Psalm 126:1-3 and Isaiah 55:12-13*

SING WITH JOY *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* VT 261

PRACTICE JOY **Joy Found in Prayer & Giving**

(Creative Written Prayer + Prayers of the People)

On the paper provided, write three separate prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing you can hang your written prayers along the twine that is strung throughout the room. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and we will collect your prayers and hang them up.

SENT TO BEGIN AGAIN

Poem: *Holy and Unhindered*

HYMN *You Shall Go Out With Joy* VT 847

Benediction

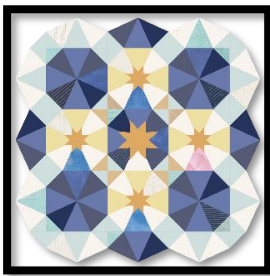
Postlude

Liturgy and Words for Worship (including Call to Worship, Prayers, Poem) written 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.

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.



Sound: Earl Ediger
Livestream: Jonathan Wenger
Ushers: Don Wiens & Russell Goering
Nursery: None scheduled
Organist: Pauline Buller
Song Leader: Trae Gehring
Worship Leaders: Adrienne Derstine, Pastor Tonya
Children's Time: Jim and Heidi Unruh
Scripture Readers: Sadie Pritchett, Santalena Caudillo, Adrienne Derstine

TODAY:

- **Fellowship** with drinks in Common Grounds Room
- No Sunday School today

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Jan 5:** Epiphany – 2024 Star Word reflections + receiving a Star Word for 2025
- **Jan 5:** Sunday school for all ages
- **Jan 19:** Mentors & Mentees meet at noon in fellowship hall
- **Jan 19:** Anabaptism at 500: Hymn Festival – 3pm Hesston Menn
- **Jan 25:** FMC serves @Soup Kitchen – sign up to prepare & serve

Christmas Poinsettia at the front of the sanctuary is being shared by Sara Blodgett in memory of her husband Frank.

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.

Church Office Hours during the holiday break

- **Dec 30-Jan 3: no office hours**
- **Jan 7: return to scheduled office hours**
 - Tue & Thu: 9am-2pm
 - Wed: 10am-1pm

Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival is a celebration of faith, music and heritage to be held Sunday, January 19 at 3pm at Hesston Mennonite Church. Featured will be historical narrative tracing the evolution of hymns and texts central to Anabaptist worship over the past 500 years. The afternoon also includes congregational singing.



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