



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

January 5, 2025
Epiphany * Star Words

BEGINNING WITH LOVE

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

Call to Worship*

L: How did you get here?

Piano side:

I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Organ side:

I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Piano side:

I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Organ side:

I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

ALL: I crawled, kissing the earth below me.

L: Tell me again. How did you get here?

ALL: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

L: Welcome home. This is God's house.

There is room for you here.

All: Let us worship our gracious God.

HYMN *The First Noel, the Angels Did Say* VT 250

Fellowship Greeting

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

HEAR GOOD NEWS OF GOD WITH US

HYMN *In the Beginning* VT 270

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*God of new beginnings,
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.
Sometimes this is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.
On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.
Give us the courage to go home by another way.
Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love,
and neighbor.
For when you are doing a new thing,
we want to have the courage to follow.
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.*

Words of Forgiveness

Dear travelers, no matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

*Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get,
or the twists and turns along the way,
we do not walk alone.*

We are loved.

We are forgiven.

We have every chance to begin again.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

HYMN *Christ, You are Light* VT 271

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination & Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21; Matthew 2:1-12

Meditation & 2024 Star Word Reflections

PRAYERS, NEW STAR WORDS & A POEM

Invitation to Prayer

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

Receiving 2025 Star Words (with Music for Meditation)

Poem: *Field Notes*

SENT TO BEGIN AGAIN

HYMN *Oh, Beautiful Star* VT 275

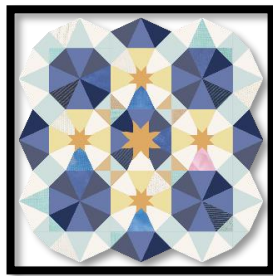
Benediction

Postlude

*Liturgy/Words for Worship (Call to Worship, Confession, Prayers, Poem, etc.) 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.



Livestream: Jonathan Wenger
Pianist: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger
Song Leader: Magdalena Wenger
Worship Leaders: Pastor Tonya, family and friends
Meditation: Pastor Tonya
2024 Star Word Reflections: submitted by FMC family

TODAY:

Fellowship with drinks in Common Grounds Room

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jan 8 – 6:00pm Wednesday LPC (Listening-Prayer-Conversation) Group

Jan 13 – 6:30pm Craft Night @ FMC

Jan 14 – 1:00pm Tuesday LPC Group

Jan 19 – Noon-1:30pm M&M (Mentors & Mentees) meet

ANABAPTISM at FIVE HUNDRED: Hymn Festival Sun Jan 19 @ 3:00pm

Hesston College announces a celebration of faith, music and heritage to be held Sunday, January 19 at 3:00pm, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The Hymn Festival will feature historical narrative by Ken Rodgers tracing the evolution of hymns and texts central to Anabaptist worship over the past 500 years. Central to the event will be congregational singing led by Dr. Russell Adrian and Karen Unruh.

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 return to scheduled hours on January 7

- Tue & Thu: 9am-2pm
- Wed: 10am-1pm

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

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Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger: tonya@hutchfmc.org

Pastor Jim Unruh: jhunruh.ju@gmail.com

