

Christmas Season

HE COMES TO US IN ALL OUR DISTRESS



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

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He comes to us in all our distress
January 1, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Once in David's royal city*
At Christmas time, all Christians sing
Of the Father's love begotten Ken Mannes

Welcome LeRoy Epp

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Call to Worship From Psalm 148 (screen)

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* VT #259

Greeting one another

Children's Story Lynelle Hofer

Celebrating our Offerings – Household Treasury
Offertory – *Infant holy, infant lowly*

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the OT and NT Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18

Song – *What Child Is This* VT #267

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon – “Unsettled and resettled” Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Communion

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (v. 1,2,5) VT #248

* Blessing

Postlude – *I want to walk as a child of the Light*

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

In this Christmas season, we remember the journey that Jesus and his parents took from Bethlehem to Egypt and then to Nazareth. On this first day of the new year, we also remember our sacred journeys, even in unsettling landscapes, trusting that God provides for us at all times. Welcome to worship!

In our communion time, all who sincerely love Jesus and are committed to Christ's way are invited to the table of God's grace.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**.

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

2:00 p.m. – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Jan. 6-8 – Senior High Retreat at SLCC (Salem-Zion pays half of registration fee)

Jan. 6 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 7 (Sat) – Women's book study at 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 7 (Sat) – Outreach & Service Committee at 4:00 p.m. at church

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 8

Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday and the focus of the morning is "*God's Wisdom Made Known*." The scripture texts are Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:1-12, and Matthew 2:1-12. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will hear words of wisdom from some in the congregation.

Next week the offering is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 9 – Administrative Board in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 11 – *Feeding Our Faith* kickoff

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week(s):

- On Wednesday, Digna Miller flew out to the Dominican Republic to be with her sister who is receiving comfort care following her courageous battle with cancer. Pray for God's love to surround the family.

- Last Thursday was "Holy Innocents Day." After Jesus was born, King Herod was so disturbed by the news of a potential contender for the throne that he began executing all the boys in Bethlehem under two years of age. Since its earliest centuries, the church has remembered these "holy innocents" who died

because Jesus' coming posed a threat to those in power. We still remember today all the little ones, born and unborn, who are sacrificed in a culture of death that has not yet welcomed the good news of Jesus. While Herod's kingdom is long gone, God's kingdom goes on.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Mary Schmidt.
- Digna and her family as they walk through the valleys of the shadow of death. May God's comforting love hold them all.
- reflective spirits as we recall God's goodness to us throughout the past year.
- open hearts to listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings as we follow Jesus in this new year.
- a new year of spiritual growth, deeper love, and greater discipleship in each of our lives and in our congregations.

"I was surprised to receive a letter from church and thought perhaps it was a Sunday bulletin. Upon opening it were the many signatures of my church friends on a Christmas card. You'll never know how warm and overwhelming it was. **Thank you** so much. Merry Christmas back to all of you." – Ruby Waltner

Christmas greetings and updates from **Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer** have been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

December Household Treasury Report – Income: \$10,864.33; Expenses: \$13,564.73; Balance: \$18,280.84.

December Offerings & Gifts: Household Treasury - \$10,864.33; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$4,450.00; Outreach & Service - \$5,147.58; Endowment - \$3,728.00.

Christmas Truth: "It is no use to say that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts." ~Dorothy Day

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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