



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

November 29, 2020

“On the road to readiness”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *An Advent Suite* (David Cherwien) Sherilyn Ortman

- I. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
- II. O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- III. Lift Up Your Heads

Welcome and Call to Worship Janette Epp

L: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

P: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: Do not remember our iniquity forever.

ALL: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Lighting of the Advent Candle-*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Estelle Waltner

Inviting God’s Spirit

Opening Hymn – *Hark! The glad sound!* (HWB #184)
Choristers: Hannah Miller & Rachel Miller

Celebrating God’s Mission – Mennonite Central Committee

Children’s Story Lacey Friesen

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

Sermon – “Prepare” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Confession

Silence

Song – *Hope is a candle* (SS #15)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* (HWB #178)

Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

What does readiness look like? How might we prepare ourselves to receive the One sent to save us? May our heart’s desire be to make space to receive the gift God has sent. We welcome you and are so glad that you have joined us for worship via live-stream.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Central Committee**. MCC, a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation. Many of our members have served with MCC. Gabriel Eisenbeis is currently serving on the canner, canning meat that is distributed around the corner and around the world. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry.

Today – Catechism will be held virtually at 4:00pm. Pastor Corey will send out the link to the students.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 1 – All information for the 2021 yearbook is due

Dec. 2 – Happy Birthday, Pastor Corey!

NEXT SUNDAY – December 6

Next Sunday we will continue our Advent theme: **“On the Road.”** The theme of the morning will be *“On the road to repentance”* and the texts will be Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85, II Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8. Stacey Waltner will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for the **Household Treasury**.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Last Sunday, the deacons dispersed tea bags and cookies for those in our church who are 80 and over. Because we could not meet for our annual “80’s Tea”, our amazing deacons brought treats to our beloved church friends. We have around 43 people in our church that are included in this “club.” 😊

- Last Sunday afternoon, the annual business meeting was held in the sanctuary. We voted on Pastor Corey, approved the reports and had a conversation regarding the possible ministry partnership with Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer as they serve in Ecuador through Mennonite Mission Network. A ballot for submitting feedback and voting was e-mailed on Monday and hard copies of the ballot are available in the narthex. If you didn’t receive the

e-mail or a paper ballot in the mail, please contact the church office. Our votes for this ministry are due on December 7.

- Someone who attended worship on November 22 tested positive for COVID-19 the following day. Because of this situation and the steep rise of cases locally, the task force decided it was in the best interest to cancel in-house worship for November 29th. We are thankful for the mitigation measures the congregation has been following and hopefully it has minimized the risk of the virus spreading. We will update information as necessary.

- Salem-Zion COVID-19 Taskforce

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Rita Graber.
- the individual who tested positive for Covid last Monday. Pray for healing and recovery for this person.
- our board of education as it continues to provide ZOOM teaching times so that our children's faith continues to be nurtured during this time of being physically apart.

Remember to thank God for:

- the affirmation for Pastor Corey to continue serving as pastor at Salem-Zion. Thanks be to God!
- a good annual business meeting of continuing the work that God sets before us to bear witness to Christ.
- so many blessings that we recall in this season of Thanksgiving: for life and breath, food to eat, shelter, community, faith and hope!
- our Covid task-force that works and discerns with love and care for our congregation.
- all the relationships in our congregations and in our conference that sustain us, guide us, and help us to see the Kingdom of God!

Pastor Corey's Response to the vote: I am both amazed and humbled at the overwhelming vote of affirmation for me to continue on as pastor at Salem-Zion. 22 votes were cast at the annual business meeting and 52 votes were mailed in, called in or texted in to our administrative assistant and they all indicated a "yes." I am so grateful for this strong vote and I officially accept this invitation to continue to serve Salem-Zion in this role as pastor. It is a calling that I take seriously and also with great joy. Our whole family shares in deep gratitude for this affirmation and I truly look forward to continuing to serve Christ with you. God is so good to us all!

Are you anticipating a Long Cold Winter? Then join us for a series of warm webinars for a cold season! Each month of this season, **the Christian Formation Committee from CPMC is putting together a series of webinars** to help us connect, learn, play and pray together. First up, "Building anticipation: Praying the Anabaptist Prayerbook in Advent," in

December. For more information about this and the rest of the webinars in the series (and for the Zoom link), visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

Thank you for the meals, prayers and encouragement you have provided during Meranda's knee reconstructive surgery and our challenging move. We have felt such love from our church family in these times. We are forever grateful. ~Adam & Meranda Van Ningen

Updated contact information: Dorothy M. Preheim, Salem Mennonite Home
106 W. 7th Street, Freeman, SD 57029
605-661-0925 Cell phone, no text
Birthday: December 8

Junior Sunday School Department: There will be no in person Sunday school and no Zoom classes on Sunday mornings through the month of November. We do want to encourage families to use the following facebook link to share lessons from the Shine Curriculum which we use for Sunday School classes at church. We will put the leaflets and classroom books in your family's mailbox at church so you can use them as well with your children. <https://www.facebook.com/shinecurriculum/>

Adult Sunday School: As you read in last week's bulletin, we are not planning for an in-person adult Sunday School class for the next month or two but you are welcome to join the existing Salt & Light study via ZOOM or start your own class by ZOOM. Another option is to launch into a daily or weekly study at home, alone or with immediate or extended family members. Resources available include the Rejoice booklet and Salt & Light quarterly booklet; both of these are available at the church. Another option may be to adopt some material specific to the Advent season. If you need any assistance with ZOOM or finding material, please ask someone. Let nothing separate us from cultivating that limitless love of Christ!

Celebrate Advent with Mennonite Church USA's **2020 Advent at Home devotional**, "We Wait for Jesus." The free annual guide for home-based worship provides daily and weekly Scripture readings, prayers and activities for individuals and families observing the season of anticipation leading to the birth of Jesus. Download it at mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home.

Advent Image for Peace: "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteous and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky...Righteousness will go before the LORD and will make a path for his steps." - Psalm 85:1-11

Pastor Corey Miller

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