



My soul
magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit
rejoices in God
my Savior

Luke 1:46-47

Advent Two

December 10, 2023

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Advent 2: "How will we know....What's next?"

December 10, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sherilyn Ortman
Welcome Beth Bontrager

Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

High Voices: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,

Low Voices: and holy is God's name.

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.

People: What will God do next?

(pause)

All: Together we wonder.

Song – *Wait for the Lord* (sing 3 times)

VT #228

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Spirit, Working in Creation*

VT #50

* Greeting each other

Children's Story

Lynelle Hofer

Sharing our Offerings – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

MCC Kits: 1 large bar bath soap

Offertory

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Drama

Josh Hofer, Marnette Hofer

* Hearing the Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

Song – *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

VT #222

Sermon – "Finding your version of Mary's Song"

Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Hymn – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

VT #216

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Be Still, My Soul*

VT #664

* Advent candle lighting/Benediction

Ladonna Waltner

L: Together we wait.

Candlelighter: How long must we wait?

L: No one knows when the time will come. So, go! Keep alert, strengthened by God's faithfulness to you.

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

One of the markers of a maturing faith is the willingness to sit with questions, often for a long time, sometimes for a lifetime. Even without answers, living with our questions is part of what shapes us as people of God. Can we find hope and even joy in the questions of faith that may not lead to answers, but more questions? God is with us in our questions. Welcome. We are glad to have you and your questions join us in worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

Guided Question: *What question have you been sitting with? Reflect on how this question has shaped your faith journey and your relationship with God.*

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

Chancel and Children's choirs lunch and rehearsal

3:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

Today: Open House at the Miller's with Christmas goodies and music!

3:30pm–5:30pm. Children of all ages can take pictures by the Nativity Set in the barn.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 13 (Wed) – Children's choir rehearsal, 6:00-6:30pm

Dec. 13 (Wed) – Chancel choir rehearsal at 6:30pm

Dec. 13 (Wed) – Men's choir rehearsal at 7:45pm

Dec. 15 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Dec. 16 (Sat) – Ladies' gathering at 9:00am for Advent scripture reading

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 17

Next Sunday continues our season of Advent. The theme is *“How will we know....What now?”* The texts will be Is. 40:1-11, II Peter 3:8-15a, and Mark 1:1-8. Nathan Epp will be preaching and we will be receiving “1 nail clipper (good quality)” for MCC Hygiene Kits.

Next week the offering is for Mennonite Church USA.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 17 – Choirs program at 7:00pm to celebrate the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ's birth

Dec. 21 – *“Longest Night Service”* at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm

Dec. 24 – Children's Christmas Eve program at 6:00pm

Dec. 25 – No Christmas Day worship service

Dec. 31 – Worship service and Communion

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God:

- for songs and gifts of music that have spoken to our hearts and souls in this season of Advent.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.

- the Tabitha Schoenwald family as they grieve the loss of her daughter Megan.

- the Salem Mennonite Church as they welcome a pastoral candidate this weekend.

- our choir directors as they provide leadership for our children's and adult choirs.

- all the victims of violence in the Middle East over these past several weeks.

The loss of life, structures, and identity are all incredibly difficult and painful.

- our sister churches in South Dakota: Sermon on the Mount, Bethany, Hutterthal, House Church of Freeman, and Salem Mennonite.

New Membership Class: Starting in January (January 7th), Pastor Corey will be leading a **membership class** for those who are interested in joining Salem-Zion. Our class will run for 4 weeks and it will include hearing each other's faith stories, a session on Anabaptist/Mennonite Church tradition, a session on the history of Salem-Zion and how we work, and a session on gifts and how we share in the ministries within our church. Contact Corey if you are interested.

Requesting help for Christmas Choirs Program Social December 17: Choir members will contribute fruit & Christmas baked goods. Men each bring 9 pieces of fruit – a variety of clementines and apples washed and tags off. Ladies each bring 4 dozen of a variety of candy, cookies or bars. No fudge please! Please bring on Sunday morning, if possible. We would possibly need volunteers to do baking also. This is very hard to plan as we never know how many people will come to the social. Also we will need people to help set up tables and chairs on the 17th right after the service as we have always done in the past. Your help is appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Linda at 605-925-7400 and leave a message. Thank you! - Liz Graber, Linda Graber

All ladies are invited to a **bridal shower for Hannah Miller**, engaged to Silas Driver, on Sunday, December 31 at 1:30 pm. You may bring a gift for Hannah or there will be a money basket and card available, if you prefer that option. If you have any questions please talk with Digna Miller or Elizabeth Janssen.

Please take time to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through Sunday morning, December 17.

Under the umbrella of Wellspring, counselors from The Changing Behavioral Group have been seeing clients at Freeman Regional, providing **mental health support**. Realizing the importance of this service, Salem-Zion has funds available for its members, including children, adolescents and adults. Make an appointment by calling the Freeman Clinic, mentioning you are a Salem-Zion member. If you have questions, please call the Group office at 605-201-0104.

November Mission Fund Offerings and Gifts: CPMC - \$1,627.00; MC USA - \$1,684.00; Feeding SD - \$2,786.00; Bethany & NTC Food Pantries - \$1,794.00; Ross Richers - \$55.00; FA - \$205.00; MMN - \$155.00; MEA - \$5.00; AMBS - \$50.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$100.00.

A copy of the Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Rachel Miller's November MVS newsletter is available in the narthex.

Cards have been posted on the bulletin board this week from Mennonite Mission Network, Lutheran Social Services, CPMC, Bienvenidos a Brookings, and Dale and Bethsaba Nafziger (Nepal).

Community Connections

Freeman Regional Health Services is looking for **Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers**. Please see the bulletin board for details.

Ten Thousand Villages with Jurassic World Merchandise: Ten Thousand Villages is an expression of Christian faith and caring for those in need and enables artisans in underserved countries to earn a fair income for their work. Villages was founded as a program of MCC in 1946 by Edna Ruth Byler. Villages continues to complement the vision of MCC.

Recently, Ten Thousand Villages entered into an agreement with Universal Studios to create fair trade movie merchandise, to be sold within a limited timeframe. The recent movie, Jurassic World, was the last in the series.

Ten Thousand Villages now has extra inventory partly due to Villages' exacting quality standards, and the learning curve on the part of our artisan partners and stateside leadership. Many carefully crafted items arrived to the selling floors much later than planned. Villages is at the end of their licensing agreement and can no longer publicly sell these products, but wants to ensure that the artisans' beautiful creations will find good homes.

Several Ten Thousand Villages board members have volunteered to help sell Jurassic merchandise locally to reimburse Village's payments to our overseas artisans. The merchandise is now 75% off the original price.

A price list is attached to the Jurassic merchandise display. Please indicate the item number(s) you are interested in, quantity, your name, and telephone number. Each church's order will be sent to Villages and the merchandise should arrive in 10 days—just in time for Christmas! Your payment will be appreciated upon receipt of the merchandise. For questions, please feel free to contact Sharon Waltner at 605.661.3222.

Thank you for your consideration of Ten Thousand Villages. Although our community no longer has a local store that carries Villages merchandise, Villages can be easily accessed on-line from the Ten Thousand Villages website: <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>.

Swan Lake Christian Camp 2024 Winter Retreats are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows: 5th & 6th Grade Retreat January 19-21, Junior High Retreat January 12-14 and Senior High Retreat January 5-7. Sign up online at www.myslcc.com.

Praying God's Peace in Advent: "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." - Mother Teresa