



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

The Coming Day

Advent 3: Tell what you hear and see

December 11, 2022

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Austin Unruh
 Welcome Mark Ortman
 Advent Candle Lighting Kevin & Betty Albrecht
O Come, O Come (VT #210) (congregation sings refrain) Youth Group

Call to Worship

One: Watch! I'm sending my messenger to tell you what I saw.
Many: God's amazing work fills the earth. The lost ones are found, the blind can see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the poor hear the story too! and those whose spirits need to be renewed are made whole.

One: Is this what you expected?

Many: Those who trust in our Merciful God will be healed.

One: What has seemed so heavy will be feather-light.

All: Praise to you O Great Healer!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Hark! the Glad Sound!* VT #217

Greeting one another

Children's Story Susan Schrag

Celebrating our Offerings – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Items for Hygiene Kits – 1 nail clipper (good quality)

Offertory

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 35:1-10 Gwen Ortman

Song – *He Came Down* VT #239

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon – “Patient Endurance” Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Song – *Light Dawns on a Weary World* VT #205

(youth group v. 1 and refrain; congregation joins on verse 2 and 3)

Sharing Stories of Seeing and Hearing

Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *God of the Bible* (v. 1,3,4) VT #420

Blessing

Postlude

The Coming Day

TELL WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE

ADVENT 3



Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Advent is an invitation to feel encouragement and strength because the one who can truly restore us is coming. May we have patient endurance to live in hope because of what we have already seen. Welcome to our worship this morning!

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

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

Dec. 14 (Wed) – Chancel Choir rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. and Children’s Choir rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 16 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 17 (Sat) – Women’s Advent study at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 18

Next Sunday continues our Advent theme: “*The Coming Day*.” The focus of the morning is “*Do not be afraid*.” The scripture texts are Isaiah 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. We will also be collecting items for MCC Hygiene Kits (1 hand towel – medium weight, any colors, 16in x 26in).

Next week the offering is for **Mennonite Church USA**.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 18 – Christmas Music program at Salem-Zion at 7:30pm

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Children’s Program at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Worship at Salem-Zion at 10:30am (no Sunday school)

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week(s):

- A new son, Amedeo, was born to Joanne and Jeff Ellinger on December 2 in Milwaukee, WI. All are doing well and big brother Magnus is excited to welcome a new brother.

- Clara Martha Graber’s brother Moses Glanzer passed away on Monday of this week. His funeral was on Saturday at Hutterthal Mennonite Church.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardelle Schrag.
- our college students as they finish finals and anticipate Christmas break.
- Clara in the loss of her brother Moses.
- our Mission Partners Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer, as they continue to serve in the Eastern Rain Forest Region in Ecuador. Pray for their family as they continue to grow.
- all who struggle with depression, anxiety, and other forms of mental illness either because of the lack of light in the day or the weight of life.
- those who are grieving the loss of loved ones this Christmas season. These days are often especially difficult so let’s remember them in our prayers, words, and actions.
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us-- and may we be willing to heed God's call.

The Graber family invites everyone to an Open House to celebrate **Alice’s 100th birthday** on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 4:00-5:30pm at the Arboretum. No gifts please. We hope you can join us!

A **Christmas program** will be given by our choirs on Sunday, December 18th at 7:30 pm. Join us for an evening of worship during this special season of Advent.

Please take time to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through Sunday morning, December 18.

November Mission Fund Offerings & Gifts: Freeman Academy - \$50.00; MCC Ukraine - \$90.00; MEA - \$500.00; MMN - \$725.00; MC USA - \$1,098.00; CPMC - \$3,225.00. The Thanksgiving Day offering total was \$1,602.00 given to the Freeman Network for Justice & Peace.

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a thank-you **card** from Jordan and Brittany and a Christmas card from Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

Church office hours on Thursday, December 15: 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Any Salem-Zion attendee wanting to visit with a mental health counselor has the opportunity at **Wellspring Counseling** in Freeman. In order to make this service available to anyone from our congregation, money has been set aside to help pay for the sessions. To make an appointment, call the Freeman Clinic, being sure to mention that you are a Salem-Zion member. Wellspring is a church supported, non-profit counseling service.

Community Connections

Sponsored by South Dakota Arts Council and a generous donor, join us for a performance of "A Christmas Carol" by Flower & Flame on Sunday, December 18th at 2PM at Freeman Academy's Pioneer Hall. Performed by master-level musicians and one actor, this melodrama uniquely combines a familiar story with classical music. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Kids 10 and under are free.

Salem (South) Mennonite church is sponsoring the holiday Senior Giving Tree for residents of Oakview Terrace and the Salem Home. Trees with gift tags and instructions are located at Jamboree Foods and Norm's Thrifty White. Gifts must be returned by Dec. 20 to ensure Christmas delivery. Thank you in advance for bringing joy to our senior citizens this holiday season!

Wanted: Your stories. To share at the "**Schweitzers and Friends**" 150th celebration of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites coming to the U.S. in 1874, planned for August 23-25, 2024 in Kansas. This event gives us opportunity to collect ancestor stories. Gathering for Christmas reunions? Great places to hear stories. Brian Adams from Massachusetts would like to edit stories for a Swiss Volhynian book with the help of his daughter Casey Adams (cpadams992@gmail.com). Think of a story you could share and send to Brian (smolts123@yahoo.com). Themes could be family, faith, agriculture, language...or phone him (413-586-3063) and he could interview you by phone. We would all love to read those stories. Maybe at the celebration event in 2024.
- Kathy Goering for the planners

MCC Christmas Giving! Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at mcc.org/delight, call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!

God's Peace in Advent: "Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other- things that are of no real consequence- the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters from Prison - November 21, 1943

Pastor Corey Miller

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