



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

The Coming Day
Advent 4: Do not be afraid
December 18, 2022

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *What Child Is This?* (arr. Brian Chung) Sherilyn Ortman
Welcome Stacey Waltner
Advent Candle Lighting Sharon, Allison & David Wollmann
O Come, O Come (VT #210) (congregation sings refrain) Jamison Hofer

Call to Worship

One: Listen! Don't be scared! God is with us. God is our power and our completeness.

Many: In the coming days we will stand near you and we will not be afraid!

One: God will send angels to watch over your life, to comfort you.

Many: God our hope is in your never ending love. Our hearts listen to you and trust you to help us change!

All: Thank you for still being our Creator!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT #241

Greeting one another

Children's Story Sheila Epp

Special Music – *Come, Light of the World!* (arr. Page and Shafferman)
Children's Choir

Celebrating our Offerings – Mennonite Church USA

Items for Hygiene Kits – 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)

Offertory

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 7:10-16 Estelle Waltner

Song – *Silent Night* VT #244

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon – “God is with us” Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Song – *Wisdom from on High Is Dawning* VT #238

Faith Story Beth Bontrager

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT #245

Blessing

Postlude – *Postlude for Christmas* (Carl Simone)

The Coming Day

**DO NOT
BE AFRAID**

ADVENT 4



Church Calendar

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

TODAY

When Joseph and Mary's world was turned upside down through an unexpected pregnancy, God's angel reminded them to "Not be afraid." We celebrate the Good News of Emmanuel, God is with us at all times and within all situations. As we anticipate the birth of Christ, we sense divine Joy building all around. Welcome!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**.

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

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

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

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

THIS WEEK

Dec. 21 (Wed) – Caroling and Children's Christmas Eve rehearsal (see announcement)

Dec. 23 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 (Sat) – Christmas Eve Children's Program at Salem-Zion at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 25

Next Sunday is Christmas Sunday and the focus of the morning is "*Sing for Joy: Your God Reigns!*" The scripture texts are Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:5-12, and John 1:1-14. There will be joyful singing, we'll hear an update from MVSer Rachel Miller, and Pastor Corey will be preaching. We will also be collecting items for MCC Hygiene Kits (1 wide-toothed comb, 6-8 inches).

COMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 1 – Worship and communion

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week(s):

- Our dear sister Alice Graber celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday with family and friends in Freeman. We celebrate Alice's long and vibrant life as she continues to enjoy a life of giving, serving, and loving. Thanks be to God!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.

- those in our conference who are taking classes in seminary and/or exploring calls to ministry. We give thanks for the nudgings of the Spirit, and pray for fortitude and courage for those who are studying, praying, and discerning the ministries to which God has called them.

Please take time to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. This morning, December 18, is the final opportunity to sign the cards.

On Wednesday, December 21, **carolers** are invited to convene at 5pm either in Marion at Tieszen Memorial or in Freeman at Salem Mennonite Home. If temperatures allow we'll visit a few homes as we make our way toward church, ending around 6:30 with a soup meal served following caroling. Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Eve program will begin at 7:00pm. Possible cancelation due to low temperatures will be sent out via email.

In order to give families more time to celebrate the joys of Christmas, there will be **no Sunday School** on December 25.

Community Connections

Sponsored by South Dakota Arts Council and a generous donor, join us for a performance of "**A Christmas Carol**" by Flower & Flame today, 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!

Et Cetera Shoppe's **winter weather policy**: when BOTH Freeman schools decide not to open for the day (due to weather - not sporting events, conferences, etc.), the shop will likely not open either. (There may be rare times when the forecasted weather doesn't materialize or we think maybe the schools made the wrong call, that the manager may decide to open up after all.) It's important to note, however, that we do NOT observe the schools' late starts or early dismissals!

Advent Prayer for Peace: “In our secret yearnings, we wait for your coming, and in our grinding despair, we doubt that you will. And in this privileged place, we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we and by those who despair more deeply than do we. Look upon your church in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue and in this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome. Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips. We do not want our several worlds to end. Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new. Amen.” - Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

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p.m. and by appointment as requested