



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 20, 2020

“On the road to revelation”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Once in Royal David's City (arr. Dan Forrest) Mory Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship (Psalm 89) Stacey Waltner

L: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

P: We will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

L: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

P: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

ALL: You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our salvation!

Lighting of the Advent Candle – *O Come, O Come Immanuel* Ella Waltner

Inviting God's Spirit

Opening Hymn – *O come, all ye faithful* (HWB #212)

Chorister: Mory Ortman

Celebrating God's Mission – Mennonite Church USA

Children's Story Sheila Epp

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures II Samuel 7:1-11, Luke 1:26-38

Sermon – “Here am I” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Confession

Silence

Song – *What Child is this* (HWB #215)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *Angels we have heard on high* (HWB #197)

Benediction

Postlude – *Joy to the World* (arr. Brent Edstrom)

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:00 a.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

We continue our Advent journey on the road. In this journey to revelation, if we have faith and a willing spirit, God will show us the way. God's word to us is now and always, “*I am with you; do not be afraid.*” In this time of worship, may we all experience God's assuring presence. We are so glad that you have joined us.

Mennonite Church USA is an Anabaptist, Christian denomination with roots in the Radical Reformation of 16th-century Europe. It is the largest Mennonite denomination in the United States with 16 conferences, approximately 530 congregations and 62,000 members. The Mennonite Church today is growing rapidly in many parts of the world, and the majority of Mennonites currently reside in the southern hemisphere. MC USA is part of Mennonite World Conference, a global faith family that includes churches in 86 countries. In the United States, MC USA includes people who come from many faith traditions, ethnicities, nationalities and backgrounds. Thank you for supporting this valuable resource and ministry.

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

Tonight – Recorded choirs program via live-streaming at 7:00 p.m. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/6wHZpKXHrxw>

THIS WEEK

Dec. 21 – Longest Night Worship Service at 7:00pm. Live-streaming at this link: <https://youtu.be/KCyBBK1pKPQ>

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00pm. Live-streaming.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Service (Zoom) hosted by South Church at 10:30am.

There will be no in-person service. Link: <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>

Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019

One-Tab Mobile (IPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

Pastor Corey and his family will be traveling to Kansas to see Nancy's mother on December 26 and will return back home on December 28th.

NEXT SUNDAY – December 27

Next Sunday we celebrate the Christmas season! The theme is “*On the road to rejoicing*” and various scripture texts will be used by our Conference Ministers, who will be provided the service online. We will be meeting in person for worship, but their input will be virtually.

Offering next Sunday will be for **The Banquet**.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- A few weeks ago, on December 2, Rosella Schwartz's brother, Carl David Thieszen, died in Kansas. A ZOOM memorial service happened on December 10 and Rosella was able to tune into that service. Carl was 91.
- On Tuesday evening, December 15, Lillie and Andre Eisenbeis welcomed their son into the world. **Jesse Wendell Eisenbeis** weighed 6 pounds and 6 ounces. Jesse and his family are doing well. The rose bud on the organ is in honor of Jesse's new life!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.
- Rosella Schwartz in the loss of her brother Carl in recent weeks.
- those who are missing loved ones at this time of the year.

Remember to thank God for:

- the gift of Jesse, Andre and Lillie's newborn son!
- all the ways that our faith is being nurtured through ZOOM Sunday school, Caring Groups, Faith from the Heart ZOOM lessons with the children and other ways of nurture.
- our brothers and sisters in Central Plains and for all the work of God that is being done through them in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Christmas....Virtually: I am so pleased that the music committee, Sunday evening fellowship committee and the board of education have planned meaningful worship services in this Christmas season. It takes intentional effort to put these services together and doing them live-stream adds to that work. I just want to clarify that the choir program on December 20, the Longest Night Service on December 21, and the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th are all services that are **not** open for public participation. All will be available through our live-streaming link. If you do not have access to live-stream, I would encourage you to find someone that can offer that service. Christmas morning worship is hosted by the South Church this year and they will have a ZOOM worship time that will include their choir Christmas program from a previous year. In all these services, we invite you to have advent candles and enter into these worship times as fully as you can. Christ is present with us all!

Early Bulletin Deadline: The church office will be closed on Thursday for Christmas Eve. Please submit bulletin announcements by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 23.

With an overwhelming response Salem-Zion has **affirmed becoming a supporting congregation to the Ross Richer family** for their work in

Ecuador through Mennonite Mission Network. Thank you so very much for all your responses and even trying new methods of voting. Over 90% of the responses were "Affirm" or "Strongly Affirm" and we had many positive comments and several volunteers for the position of liaison. More details are sure to follow.

Christmas Card Blitz: I would encourage you all to get your Christmas cards sent off to the person(s) you have been invited to share in our *Christmas Card Blitz*. Part of the joy is allowing God's Spirit to give us words of blessing to people in our church that we might not normally correspond with. May God's Good News be heard and received by us in our church body this Christmas!

Thank you for all the well wishes, cards, and flowers for my 97th birthday.
- Virginia Graber

Thank you for your cards, memorials, and support for my family at the time of this loss of mother, and grandma! Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. - The family of Joy Janssen

Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month Balance: \$14,451.00
The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, office supplies, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

The Jr. Sunday School Department will continue to take an **offering** for the Don and Sonja Waltner family during the winter quarter. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings. If you want to contribute, but are not able to be in church, please send your offerings to the church or call Sheila Epp.

Community Connections

The December edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue, we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member, and be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration. Read more at <https://conta.cc/3oS0PL6>.

Advent Hope: "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." - Henri Nouwen

Pastor Corey Miller
Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

Church Admin. Assistant:
Lisa Kaufman
(605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

