



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Journey toward Love
December 22, 2024
10:30am

“Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” - Luke 1:38

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *Oh, Come, Emmanuel* (arr. Held), *Away In A Manger* (arr. Burkhardt)
Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (arr. Manz), *Still, Still, Still* (arr. Manz)
Sheila Epp

Call to Worship “Heavenly Host”

Advent Candle Lighting – *Hope Is a Candle* (vv.1-4) VT #211

Welcome and Opening Prayer Malynda Penner

* Singing our Praise – *Love Came Down at Christmas* VT #255

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Corby and Emma Liz Graber

Offering – Deacon Sharing Fund
MCC Infant Kits: 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
Offertory – *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing* (arr. Manz)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 11:1-9

Song – *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* VT #216

* Hearing the Gospel Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Special Music – *Mary’s Song of Praise* (Anders Öhrwall) Chancel Choir

Sermon – “Love Wins” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Guiding us to Love

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Song – *Unexpected and Mysterious* (choir will sing v. 1) VT #229

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Our Advent journey takes us to the heart of Mary as we learn about Love. Mary’s faith and her willingness to carry God’s son remind us of the extent of her love for God and her firstborn. We marvel with Mary and her song of praise invites us to worship God with deep trust. We are delighted that you have joined us in worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Deacon Sharing Fund**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

6:15pm – Chancel Choir rehearsal

7:00pm – Christmas Choirs Program

THIS WEEK

Dec. 23 (Mon) – Christmas Eve dress rehearsal at 10:30am

Dec. 24 (Tues) – Children’s Christmas Eve program at 7:00pm

Dec. 25 (Wed) – Christmas Day worship service at Salem-Zion at 10:30am.

Our friends from South Church will join us and the offering will go for Caminando Juntos (Presentation Sisters) in Sioux Falls for the work they do to care for immigrants in our community.

Dec. 27 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

There will be an **early bulletin deadline** this week. Please submit announcements to the church office by Tuesday morning at 8:00am. Lisa will be on vacation Dec. 25-31.

Millers in Kansas

Pastor Corey and Nancy will leave on December 26th and travel to Kansas for a few days to celebrate Christmas with Nancy’s family. They will return home on December 28th.

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 29

Next Sunday we rejoice in the Christmas season with the theme *Journey Toward Praise*. The texts are Psalm 94:1-7, Isaiah 65:17-25 and Luke 2:22-38. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving items for MCC infant kits. Items that will be received during our regular offering will be: 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper).

The offering will be for Mennonite Central Committee.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 31 – Fuente de Vida church reservation from 7:00pm-12:30am

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- the tenacity and faithful endurance that Mary exhibited in her calling to give birth to Jesus.
- all the people that have shown us love, both in actions and in words.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.
- Rachel Miller as she transitions from South Dakota to Oklahoma, where she will live and work.
- families and loved ones that are traveling in these days.
- that love would shape our responses to everyone we see.

We are again receiving items for **infant kits** for Mennonite Central Committee. Each week during Advent through Epiphany, we are invited to bring items that will be received during the regular offering.

Dec. 22 - 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins

Dec. 29 - 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)

Jan. 5 - 1 pair of socks, 1 cap

Summary **minutes** from the November Deacons' meeting have been posted in the narthex.

Community Connections

Mennonite Disaster Service's December edition of **On the Level** is now available at <https://conta.cc/49FzaWp>. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares thoughts and inspiration from a deer stand, and celebrate with a family in West Virginia who will be home for Christmas, thanks to MDS volunteers, plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting **Winter Retreats** this winter. 8th-12th grade retreat will be held January 10-12 and 5th-8th grade retreat will be held January 17-19. Cost is \$100 and registration is necessary and needs to be in 2 weeks prior to the weekend. You can register online at myslcc.com.

There will be a **Piano Night fundraiser** at Swan Lake Christian Camp on January 26 at 6:00pm. Please see the poster in the narthex for details.

Love in Advent: *In Advent spirituality we are also called on to meditate on the birthing of Christ in our hearts. In this matter we are dealing with the conversion of life, the movement away from the old life lived under the power of evil to the new life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. True conversion is a turning from one way of life to another. Christ calls us to be converted to him, to make him the pattern of our lives, to make our living and dying a living and dying in him.* - Robert E. Webber