



Salem–Zion Mennonite Church

Christmas Day

Sing for Joy: Your God Reigns!

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

SING FOR JOY: YOUR GOD REIGNS!

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Old French Carol, Good Joseph, listen to me*
(Jean Francois Dandrieu)

Ken Mannes

Welcome

Lillie Eisenbeis

Call to Worship

One: Sing and shout! Your creation is so beautiful in the east and west, the north and south.

Many: Thank you for sending Jesus to the earth to show us the way to live.

One: Help us to look for your peace and promises. We find comfort in you.

Our hearts sing a new song. We wait for the coming day!

All: Jesus is born this day! Hallelujah!

* Hymn – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

VT #249

* Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Love Has Come*

VT #258

Greeting one another

Children’s Story

Susan Schrag

Celebrating our Offerings – Local Food Banks

Items for Hygiene Kits – 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 in)

Offertory – *O Lord, how shall I greet thee* (Paul Manz)

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the Old Testament

Isaiah 52:7-10

Song – *The First Noel*

VT #250

Hearing the New Testament

Hebrews 1:5-12, 14

Reflections

Rachel Miller

* Hearing the Gospel

John 1:1-14

Sermon – “Welcome the Light!”

Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Celebrating Psalm 98

Song – *Oh, How Joyfully*

VT #254

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Joy to the World*

VT #240

* Blessing

Postlude – *Improvised on a carol*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

The long-anticipated restoration is here and now in Jesus' birth. The same Holy Spirit that birthed Jesus is available to us. The Light has come into the world and we rejoice! Welcome to our worship as we celebrate the Good News that Christ is born!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Local Food Banks – Freeman/Parker.**

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service
2:00 p.m. – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Dec. 30 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 31 (Sat) – Women's book study at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 1

Next Sunday is New Year's Day but it's also the first Sunday of the Christmas Season. The focus of the morning will be: "He comes to us in all our distress." The scripture texts are Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, and Matthew 2:13-23. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be celebrating communion. Begin your new year at worship with your church.

Next week the offering is for the **Household Treasury.**

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 1 – Worship and communion

Jan. 9 – Administrative Board in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 11 – *Feeding Our Faith* kickoff

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week(s):

- Eileen Kaufman's brother, John Rempel, died on December 16 and his funeral was held on Wednesday in Kansas.
- Wednesday was December 21, the shortest day of the year, or often called the Longest Night. In addition to being the first day of Winter, this day is also a time for people to acknowledge the sadness that comes this time of the year because loved ones are no longer with us.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.
- Eileen Kaufman and the loss of her brother.
- our farmers especially as they tend to their livestock in these bitterly cold

days. Pray for protection on all the animals and those that care for them.

- all those who are traveling over the holiday season or those who have had to make adjustments because of the weather. Pray for traveling mercies on all and blessings upon all families who are gathering these days.

- our brothers and sisters in Central Plains. We give thanks for all the work of God that is being done through them in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska.

Thank You to the music committee, the choir directors, the accompanists, the singers, the sound system operators, and those who prepared and served refreshments at our Christmas program last Sunday night. The music that was offered that night has given courage, hope, and faith to many people who listened in person and online. What a gift God has given us to make beautiful music together!

Thank You for all the expressions of love and care that we have felt in this month. Your cards, words, food, and gifts have blessed our family in so many ways. We thank you for each of you and our ministry together! - Corey, Nancy, Hannah and Rachel

A **thank-you card** from The Swiss Choral Society has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Community Connections

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!

The December edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3Whz2F8>.

Christmas Truth: "It's an unwed woman who carries God. It's the pagans from the East who recognize God. It's the workers in the field who hear from God. It's the marginalized neighborhood who welcomes God. It's God who chooses the lowly and the broken to rise. Christmas is here. Let hope in." - Author unknown

Pastor Corey Miller

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