

ENTERING *Love's* STORY



December 26, 2021

Advent Five

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

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Entering Love's Story: Angels

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (arr. Perkins) Sherilyn Ortman
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (arr. Chung) Susan Schrag
The Prophetic Voice Isaiah 9:2-7 David Janssen
Welcome and Call to Worship

L: Glory to God in the highest!

P: And peace to all people on earth!

L: Today a Savior is born to us,

P: He is Christ the Lord!!!!

ALL: Let all the earth rejoice in God's great gift to us all!

* Hymn – *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* VT #247

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* #259

Greeting Each Other and "Passing the Peace"

"The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you."

Advent Candle Lighting *Hope Is a Candle* v. 5 #211

Celebrating our Mission with *MCC: Support a Shepherd Project*

MCC Infant Kits - 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)

Children's Story The Rooster's Story Diane Ellinger

PROCLAIMING

* Hearing the Gospel Story – Luke 2:8-14 Andre Eisenbeis

Song – *Angels We Have Heard on High* #249

* Hearing the Gospel – Luke 2:15-20 Lori Hofer

Meditation Caley Ortman

RESPONDING

Testimony Ellen Ortman

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song - *Joy to the World* #240

Blessing

Postlude – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (arr. Sanborn)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we marvel at the role that the angels played in the birth narrative. From declaring God's surprising news to Mary and Joseph, to the heavenly chorus for the shepherds, God's angels proclaimed God's good news for all! In this Christmas season, we welcome you to our time of worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **MCC: Support a Shepherd Project**. After many years of war in Syria raising sheep provides opportunities for individuals and families to establish their own flocks. This project also provides business training for the shepherds.

Items for the MCC Infant Kits: **1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)**

9:00 a.m. – Zoom Adult Sunday School

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Jr. Dept. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for adults

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

NEXT SUNDAY – January 2

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the New Year. The theme is “*Entering Love’s Story*” and the focus of the morning is **Wise Ones**. The texts are Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for the **Household Treasury**.

COMING EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 27 – Visitation for Tammy Benjamin at S-Z from 5-7pm

Tuesday, Dec. 28 – Funeral service for Tammy Benjamin at S-Z at 10:30am

Sunday, Jan. 2 – Epiphany Sunday

Wednesday, Jan. 5 – *Feeding Our Faith* (FOF) kickoff with supper and activities planned for all ages

Thursday, Jan. 6 – Deacon Meeting at 7:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Tammy Benjamin died last Monday evening, surrounded by her family. A funeral service for Tammy is scheduled for Tuesday, December 28 at 10:30am at Salem-Zion Mennonite. The visitation will be held on Monday, December 27, from 5-7pm also at Salem-Zion.

- Laura Illunga, FA student who has regularly worshiped with us, received the sad news that her father died on Wednesday evening in the Congo after having some health issues. We mourn with Laura in the death of her father.

- Corey, Nancy, Hannah and Rachel were able to make a quick trip to Kansas on Friday to celebrate Christmas with Nancy's family. They will be returning home on Sunday evening.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.

- Dan, Ashlyn and Tyce Benjamin in the loss of their spouse and mother. We can imagine the myriad of emotions that this family is feeling right now. May our prayers and actions speak to their loss these days.

- Candace Schrag in the loss of her daughter. In this indescribable loss, Lord have mercy and give strength.

- all who are sick and all who are caring for the sick these days. May we all be God's hands and feet of mercy.

- all who feel lonely in this Christmas season and for all those who are missing loved ones. Lord, shine upon the shadows of this time of loss for all who are mourning. We pray for Laura Illunga in her father's death.

- Caley Ortman as he continues his ministry in California. Pray for endurance, courage and strength as he ministers in your name.

COVID Team Update: Our most recent word to the congregation for gathered worship events was for people to be encouraged to sit in the designated pews (social distancing), wear masks in and out of the sanctuary (and for congregational singing), and use the hand sanitizers when they enter and leave worship. If people feel comfortable, they may remove their masks during the worship time. These practices are encouraged because they can help prevent spreading Covid to others and these practices are a gesture of love and respect to others. As always, we will continue to monitor our situation and make adjustments accordingly. Thank you for your diligence in this matter as well as your grace and patience in this time. - Covid Task Team

Infant Kits for MCC during Advent: As we have done recently, we will be receiving items needed for Infant Kits for MCC as a part of our offering.

The following is the schedule that we will follow:

Jan. 2 – **1 pair of socks, 1 cap**

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a letter from the **Ross Richer family** and the Ecuador Ministry Support Team.

Season of Stories: A Winter Webinar Series

The Christian Formation Committee of CPMC has put together another season of webinars to help us connect, learn, play and pray together. Check out the full webinar schedule on our website! www.centralplainsmc.org

God's Peace at Christmas: "Politicians compete for the highest offices. Business tycoons scramble for a bigger and bigger piece of the pie. Armies march and scientists study and philosophers philosophise and preachers preach and laborers sweat. But in that silent baby, lying in that humble manger, there pulses more potential power and wisdom and grace and aliveness than all the rest of us can imagine." - Brian D. McLaren

"As followers of Jesus Christ, our purpose is to live and share the good news of Christ's Kingdom, welcoming all as we worship, study, fellowship and serve others together." - Salem-Zion Mennonite Mission Statement 2015

Zoom Adult Sunday School

<https://zoom.us/j/97667382194?pwd=NHNieHZ6a29ZMGpZSHJpczlibUxtdz09; Meeting ID: 976 6738 2194; Passcode: 523139>

Livestream link for Sunday morning worship

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX8KyFIZChK0Ef-rlBAaS3A>

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
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Church Admin. Assistant:

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p.m. and by appointment as requested

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