



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**December 27, 2020**

*“On the road to rejoicing”*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *The First Noel* (arr. Chris Rice) Josie Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship (Psalm 148) David Janssen

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

**P: Praise the Lord in the heights!**

L: Praise the Lord, all God’s angels; praise the Lord, all God’s host!

**P: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!**

L: Praise the Lord, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**P: Praise the name of the Lord; God’s glory is above earth and heaven.**

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

Opening Prayer

Song: (HWB #178) *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Reading 1

Song: (HWB #206) *Infant holy, infant lowly*

Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting

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

Song: (HWB #211) *Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming*

Godly Play Scripture Reading

Reader’s Theater

Songs: (HWB #195) *It came upon a midnight clear*

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

(HWB #201) *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Benediction

Song: (HWB #318) *Joy to the world*

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Postlude – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (arr. Chris Rice)

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Walking the road of revelation results in overwhelming joy. The wait is over. Jesus has come and we now celebrate Christmas! We rejoice in the incarnation – God in the flesh – God with us! We are so glad that you have joined us and we pray that in this worship time, you will experience God’s deep joy.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *The Banquet*.

**Sunday** – No catechism

### NEXT SUNDAY – January 3

Next Sunday we celebrate the Christmas season! The theme is “*On the road to radiance*” and the texts are Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving communion safely.

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

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- Last Sunday Duane and Marlys Tieszen celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their children in Colorado. Praise God for lasting love and for cherished children and grandchildren.
- Through the marvels of technology, our church was inspired at our Choir worship service last Sunday, prayed on Monday night through the Darkest Night, and celebrated on Thursday evening at the Christmas Eve service. Praise God that we could gather in spirit to hear the scriptures and celebrate Christ’s birth!

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Kris Waltner.
- those who are missing loved ones at this time of the year.
- those who will still be having surgeries and procedures before the end of the year.
- healing for all who are hurting, tired, and exhausted from this past year.
- the pastors who have so faithfully served Central Plains Mennonite Conference in this past year. We give thanks to God for providing able shepherds to lead our congregations.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- the gift of marriage that has blessed Duane and Marlys for 60 years.
- the Advent and Christmas services that we have participated in over the past week. For the worship leaders, musicians, visual coordinators and technical operators, we praise God for the healing and hope that these services have offered so many people.
- grace, strength and endurance that helped us through this difficult year.

**Thank You:** Once again, we have felt your love, encouragement and affirmation in the form of gifts, cards, food and other special blessings in these weeks. We thank you for these gestures of love and we praise God for every one of you. - Corey, Nancy, Hannah, Rachel

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 28.

Now that the carols are sung, the cookies digested, and the pine branches wilted, are you looking forward and thinking, "What a long, cold winter we have ahead of us?" Don't fret! The Christian Formation Committee of CPMC is here to help! We've planned a series of webinars to help us connect, learn, play and pray together across our conference during this long cold winter. Join us for:

**Remembering Your Story: Creating your own spiritual autobiography,** Tuesdays, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9

**Creating Together: imaginative art as a spiritual practice,** Third Thursday of January (21), February (18), and March (18)

**Lenten Spiritual Practices,** Tuesday, February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

For more information about each of these webinars and the zoom links, visit our website, [centralplainsmc.org](http://centralplainsmc.org).

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.

**Advent Hope:**

"By the light of nature we see God as a God above us, by the light of the law, we see God as a God against us, but by the light of the gospel, we see God as Emmanuel, God with us." - Matthew Henry

**Pastor Corey Miller**

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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**Church Admin. Assistant:**

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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested