



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Journey toward Praise
December 29, 2024
10:30am

“...My eyes have seen your salvation...” - Luke 2:30

GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude Cadence and Reeslyn Hofer
- Call to Worship “Heavenly Host”
- Christ Candle Lighting – *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VT #245
- Welcome and Opening Prayer LeRoy Epp
- * Singing our Praise – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VT #218
- * Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Corby and Emma Estelle Waltner
- Offering – Mennonite Central Committee
MCC Infant Kits: 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 65:17-25
- Special Music Ben Schwartz
- * Hearing the Gospel Luke 2:22-38
- Song – *With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT #208
- Sermon – “Praying and Praising” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

- Guiding us to Praise
- Special Music – *O Holy Night* Kaye Waltner
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

- * Song – *Joy to the World* VT #240
- * Benediction
- Postlude

Hymn accompanist: Kaye Waltner

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Our Christmas joy celebrates with Simeon and Anna who are moved to Praise after seeing Jesus being dedicated to the Lord. How do we most authentically praise God from whom all blessings flow? How has our understanding of praise been shaped by our families, friends, and community? Welcome to our worship. We are delighted to Praise God with you today!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Central Committee**.

- 9:30am – Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30am – Worship Service
- 2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

- Dec. 31 (Tues)** – Fuente de Vida church reservation from 7:00pm-12:30am
- Jan. 3 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 5

Next Sunday we **continue our Christmas joy** with the theme *Journey Toward Light*. On this Epiphany Sunday, the texts are Ps. 27:1-4,13-14, Is. 60:1-16, and Mt. 2:1-12. Pastor Corey will be preaching, we will be receiving items for MCC infant kits, and we will have communion on this first Sunday of the new year. Items that will be received during our regular offering will be: 1 pair of socks, 1 cap.

The offering will be for the Household Treasury.

COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 9** – Deacons’ meeting at 7:45pm
- Jan. 13** – Beginning of the Year Ad. Board meeting at 7:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Alice Graber moved to her new home at Salem Home last weekend.
- Corey and Nancy traveled to KS for a few days to be with family.

Remember to praise God for:

- all the experiences over these past weeks that have helped us to feel Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
- the birth of Jesus and the difference that he makes in our faith and our witness.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.
- those who are adjusting to changes and moves in these days.
- a greater capacity to praise God and recognize God’s movement in our lives and in others.
- grace as we reflect on all that was (or wasn’t) in 2024.
- a new year of spiritual growth, deeper love, and greater discipleship in each of our lives and in our congregations.

THANK YOU!!!!

Nancy and I offer our heartfelt thanks for all the cards, gifts, and gestures of love that we have received in these weeks. Truly, we feel loved and cared for by this incredible community of faith at Salem-Zion. Thank you again.

THANK YOU!!!!

I want to offer a special thank you to all our talented people who have created meaningful and moving worship services throughout Advent and Epiphany. I’m grateful for our talented worship team, and I offer special thanks to Brian and Maria Paff, who wrote and performed the incredible sketches with the “Heavenly Host.” Thanks to Carol Duerksen for writing the touching scripts for the puppet children’s story. Thanks to our choir directors, accompanists, musicians, technicians, and others who helped make these moments of worship so wonderful. I praise God for all the ways that we have declared God’s light and love in these weeks. Well done!!!

Anabaptist Community Bible: The long-awaited Anabaptist Community Bible recently came out. If you have ordered one, you can see how rich a treasure this Bible is. If you wish to order one, you can still do so. We look forward to reflecting on our Anabaptist story in the new year ahead! May this be a wonderful year for us as we endeavor to Dwell in the Word.

Yearbook corrections and any new updates throughout the year will be printed in the church newsletter. Please continue to submit information to the church office. Thank you!

Community Connections

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, January 8 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

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.

Praising God at Christmas: *I realized that songs, good feelings, beautiful liturgies, nice presents, big dinners, and many sweet words do not make Christmas. Christmas is saying “yes” to something beyond all emotions and feelings. Christmas is saying “Yes” to a hope based on God’s initiative, which has nothing to do with what I think or feel. Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God’s work, and not mine. - 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
 Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested