

*How will we know...  
how long?*



*Advent One*

December 3, 2023

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH



## Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Advent 1: "How will we know....How long?"

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### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Austin Unruh  
Welcome Polly Waltner  
Call to Worship  
L: O God, tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence!  
High Voices: No one has heard,  
Low Voices: No ear has perceived,  
**P: No eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait  
for you.**  
L: No one knows when the time will come.  
**P: How long must we wait?**  
(pause)  
**All: Together we wait.**  
Song – *Wait for the Lord* (VT #228) Instrumental  
Opening Prayer  
\* Hymn – *Sleepers, Wake* VT #226  
\* Greeting each other  
Children's Story David Friesen  
Sharing our Offerings – Household Treasury; MCC Kits: 1 adult-sized toothbrush  
Offertory

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

Drama LeRoy Epp, Marnette Hofer  
Hearing the Old Testament Scripture Isaiah 64:1-9  
Song – *Come Now, O God* VT #143  
\* Hearing the Gospel Mark 13:24-37  
Sermon – "Wondering, Wandering and Waiting" Corey Miller

### RESPONDING TO GOD

Special Music – *As a Sigh Great with Yearning* (VT #403)  
Sharing and Congregational Prayer  
\* Sending Song – *Hark! The Glad Sound!* VT #217  
\* Advent candle lighting/Benediction Ellen Ortman  
L: Together we wait.  
**Candlelighter: How long must we wait?**  
L: No one knows when the time will come. So, go! Keep alert, strengthened  
by God's faithfulness to you.  
Postlude

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

In the season of Advent, we wait to hear from God. For all those who have felt the silence of God as they wait for restoration, for vindication, for hope, we too wait. When we hear of wars and rumors of war, when children suffer, when illness impacts life, we also cry out with our spiritual ancestors, "**How long, O Lord?**" While we still don't know the answer, God is with us in the waiting.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**.

9:30am – Jr. Sunday School opening in the Sanctuary

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

Chancel and Children's choirs lunch and rehearsal

3:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

### THIS WEEK

**Dec. 6 (Wed)** – Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:00-6:30pm

**Dec. 6 (Wed)** – Men's choir rehearsal at 7:30pm

**Dec. 8 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

**Dec. 9 (Sat)** – Ladies' gathering at 9:00am for Advent scripture reading

### NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 10

Next Sunday continues our season of Advent. The theme is "*How will we know.... What's Next?*" The texts will be Is. 61:1-4,8-11, Luke 1:46-55, and I Thess. 5:16-24. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving 1 large bar bath soap (in original wrapper) for MCC Hygiene Kits.

Next week the offering is for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

### COMING EVENTS

**Dec. 10** – Chancel and children's choirs will practice for Christmas after church. Practice will start immediately following lunch and will conclude by 2 pm. We will enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread.

**Dec. 10** – Open House at the Miller's with Christmas goodies and music! **3:30pm –5:30pm**. Children of all ages can take pictures by the Nativity Set in the barn.

**Dec. 17** – Choirs program to celebrate Christmas

**Dec. 24** – Children's Christmas Eve program at 6:00pm

**Dec. 25** – No Christmas Day worship service

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- Bill Waltner and Darlene Dulaney were married in a small private ceremony last Monday. Thanks be to God for the gift of love that has come to Bill and Darlene.

### **Remember to praise God:**

- for the ceasefire that has been happening this week in the Middle East. We rejoice with all the hostages that have been released to their families and homes.

### **Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Marian Gering.

- Bill and Darlene as they begin their married life together.

- those who wait and are discouraged in the long season of waiting that they are in.

- our new committees as they reconfigure leadership for the upcoming year and prepare to engage in the ministries that God has given us.

- those who are most vulnerable in our communities. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us-- and may we be willing to heed God's call.

Under the umbrella of Wellspring, counselors from The Changing Behavioral Group have been seeing clients at Freeman Regional, providing **mental health support**. Realizing the importance of this service, Salem-Zion has funds available for its members, including children, adolescents and adults. Make an appointment by calling the Freeman Clinic, mentioning you are a Salem-Zion member. If you have questions, please call the Group office at 605-201-0104.

Please take time to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through Sunday morning, December 17.

**Minutes** from the November Deacons meeting have been posted in the narthex.

**November Offerings and Gifts:** Household Treasury - \$27,769.09; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$2,500.00; Outreach & Service - \$2,000.00; Endowment - \$5,000.00.

The December church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex.

## Community Connections

Freeman Regional Health Services is looking for **Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers**. Please see the bulletin board for details.

**Praying God's Peace in Advent:** "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." - Henri Nouwen

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
Office Hours:  
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
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p.m. and by appointment as requested