



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 5, 2021  
*Entering Love's Story: Journey*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp  
 The Prophetic Voice Zephaniah 3:17-20 Mark Ortman  
 Welcome and Call to Worship Paul Ortman  
 L: God invites us on a journey to know God and be known by God.  
**P: The journey is exciting, dangerous, uncertain and life-changing.**  
 L: We travel along knowing that God is with us and already waiting to meet us.  
**P: With Mary and Joseph, we gather ourselves on a journey that will change us forever.**

*ALL: May God's Spirit guide us on the journey we are on.*

Opening Prayer

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

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* vv.1-2 #211

Celebrating our Mission with *Household Treasury*  
MCC Infant Kits - 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)

Children's Story The Donkey Story Lori Ortman

## PROCLAIMING

Hearing the Old Testament Story – Exodus 19:1-6 Lana Herlyn

Song – *Joyful Is the Dark* #281

\* Hearing the Gospel – Luke 2:1-5 Lois Kaufman

Meditation – “The Journey” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING

Instrumental *Hope Is a Candle* Sheila Epp

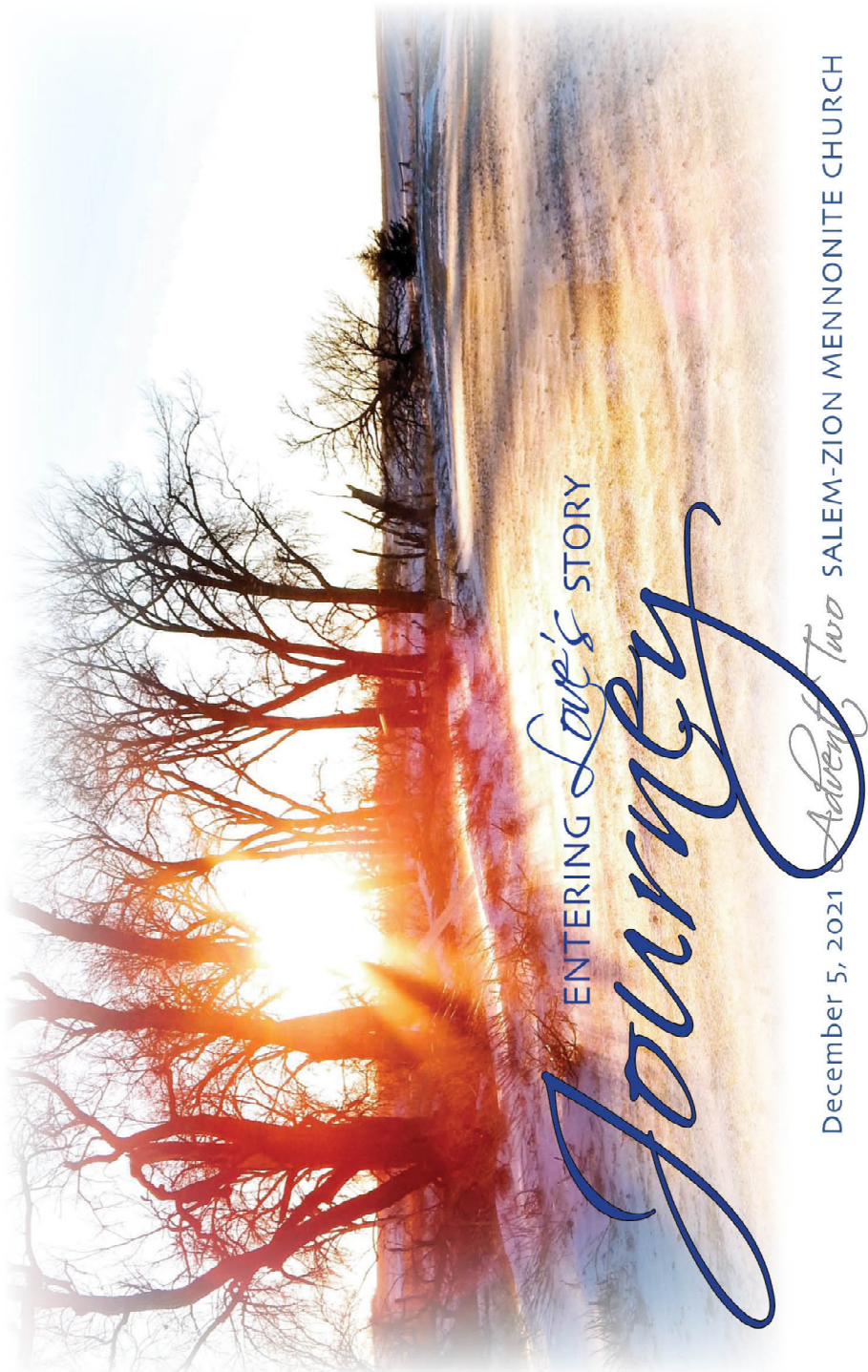
Testimony Beth Kaufman

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Song - *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* #212

Blessing

Postlude



ENTERING Love's STORY  
*Journey*  
December 5, 2021 *Advent 2* SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

We continue our Advent theme “Entering Love’s Story” by thinking about **Journey**. Mary and Joseph experienced a long, difficult journey to get to Bethlehem. We are invited to imagine their journey today and what is God teaching us on our own journey of faith. Welcome friends. We are glad you are here!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**. Items for the MCC Infant Kits: **3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)**

- 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

Special thanks to Polly Waltner for the Advent bulletin cover picture, Gary Graber for the stable, and Nancy Miller for the animals in the stable.

**Children’s Stories in Advent:** This year, the children’s stories will be using the book that Kimberly Funk wrote a few years ago, “*Christmas at the Stable: The Animals Tell Their Stories.*” The book is illustrated by Kimberly Rempel and both the author and the artist have graciously given us permission to read the stories and project the art pieces. Kimberly worked with Corey at Tabor Mennonite where she was (and still is) the administrative assistant.

### THIS WEEK

**Dec. 8 (Wed)** – Children’s choir 6:30-7:30pm

**Dec. 8 (Wed)** – Youth group at 6:30pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 12

Next Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The theme this year is “Entering Love’s Story” and the focus of the morning is **Birth**. The texts are Isaiah 7:10-16, I John 5:1-5, Luke 2:7 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

### COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Dec. 19** – Christmas Worship Service at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- The memorial service for Duane Schrag was held yesterday at Salem-Zion.
- Tammy Benjamin continues to be on a ventilator at the Avera Hospital as she recovers from Covid.

- On Monday, Eileen Kaufman had hip replacement surgery and was able to come home on Tuesday.

- On Thursday, Steve Graber had knee replacement surgery and will be coming home shortly.

- On Thursday, Mary Schmidt moved from Freeman to Stoney Brook Assisted Living in Sioux Falls.

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

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- those who are recovering from recent surgeries: Sharon Wollmann, Eileen Kaufman and Steve Graber. Pray for patience for each one as they wait for healing to come.
- Tammy Benjamin as she continues her fight against Covid.
- each of us as we continue our faith journey with Christ with all the twists and turns that come along the way.
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. 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.

**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:

Nov. 28 - **3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)**

Dec. 5 - **3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)**

Dec. 12 – **1 receiving blanket - lightweight fleece or flannel**

Dec. 19 – **4 large, heavy-duty safety pins**

Dec. 26 – **1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)**

Jan. 2 – **1 pair of socks, 1 cap**

**Thank you** to everyone who brought snack items Thanksgiving Day! We collected over 1,000 individual items to feed hungry students in Marion and Freeman. In addition to the food offering we also received over \$200 earmarked for additional supplies.

**Please take time to sign the Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through December 16.

**November Offerings & Gifts:** Household Treasury - \$9,565.00; Outreach - \$100.00; Music Fund - \$5,628.10; Landscape - \$160.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$300.00; Student Tuition Sharing Fund - \$50.00.

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a letter from **Nathan Luitjens, Executive Conference Minister**. A thank-you letter from **The Banquet** is also posted on the bulletin board.

**Adult Sunday school teachers:** Salt & Light teacher guides are in the church office for you to pick up anytime.

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

**November Household Treasury Report** – Income: \$9,565.00; Expenses: \$12,220.77; Balance: \$11,218.20.

**God’s Peace is Good News:** “For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.”

- Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

“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

### Community Connections

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will be meeting in the Freeman Library on Wed. December 8, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. All are welcome to attend.

**Little Blessings Daycare at Freeman Academy** is looking for a patient, loving person to help care for some energetic, fun-loving children. Caring for God’s most precious gift is one way to show your servant heart while filling the great need for childcare in our community. We are seeking full or part-time help. Please contact Director Wendy Claussen at (605)310-2828.

Do you have a heart for mentoring students, along with strong organizational skills? Freeman Academy has greatly appreciated the Singletarys and Andersons stepping in for this year as Resident Directors, but it is time to begin our search for a **new couple to supervise and encourage our boarding students in on-campus housing beginning next fall**. Main responsibilities are building relationships with students and overseeing daily life at the dorm, including cooking the evening meal, coordinating student activities, and communicating with parents. Includes salary plus benefits, including health insurance, retirement, room and board. For more information visit <https://freemanacademy.org/employment/> or contact Nathan Epp, Head of School, [nepp@freemanacademy.org](mailto:nepp@freemanacademy.org) or 605-925-4237.

The Salem Mennonite Church Mission and Service Team is sponsoring the holiday **Senior Giving Tree for residents of Oakview Terrace and the Salem Home in Freeman**. Trees with gift tags and instructions are located at Jamboree Foods, Norm’s Thrifty White and the Salem Mennonite Church narthex. Gifts must be returned to one of the tree locations by Dec. 21 to ensure Christmas delivery. Monetary donations to cover remaining gift tags are welcome, and can be sent to Salem Mennonite Church, Attn: Chris Eisenbeis, 28103 443<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Freeman, SD 57029. Thank you in advance for bringing joy to our senior citizens this holiday season!

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting **Piano Night at the Lake** on January 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Pianists will be Russell Adrian (a SLCC alum), formerly of Mt. Lake, MN and now choral director at Hesston College, KS along with his colleague Ken Rodgers. They will provide some duets and individual pieces. Mary Anderson will be providing music as well as a great meal. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 605-326-5690 or emailing at [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com). A freewill offering will be taken for the evening.

### Church Library

**Coals of Fire** By Elizabeth Bauman

Each true story tells of returning love for hate, good for evil. Elizabeth H. Bauman shares 17 true stories of men and women from various times and countries who showed the universal power of Christian love. (*elementary to adult*)

**Where the Wild Things Are** By Maurice Sendak

Maurice Sendak's Caldecott Medal-winning picture book has become one of the most highly acclaimed and best-loved children's books of all time. This iconic story has inspired a movie, an opera, and the imagination of generations. (*children*)

**Maverick Priest: A Story of Life on the Edge** By Father Harry J. Bury

Father Harry J. Bury is a Catholic priest unlike any you have ever met. His travels through Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Costa Rica, Philippines, Africa, Palestine and Israel, span over 60 years. His life-long dedication: to interact lovingly with citizens of the world in pursuit of peace and nonviolence. His determination to help his fellow human beings put him in compromising and often dangerous situations with American law enforcement, foreign governments, and the church alike. (*youth & adult*)

**Peace Shall Destroy Many** By Rudy Wiebe

In 1944, as war rages across Europe and Asia, famine, violence and fear are commonplace. But life appears tranquil in the isolated farming settlement of

Wapiti in northern Saskatchewan, where the Mennonite community continues the agricultural lifestyle their ancestors have practiced for centuries. Thom Wiens, a young farmer and earnest Christian, begins to ask questions. How can they claim to oppose the war when their livestock become meat to sustain soldiers? How can they enjoy this free country but rely on others to fight to preserve that freedom? (*youth & adult*)

### **On Fire For Christ: Stories of Anabaptist Martyrs**

By Dave and Neta Jackson

The stories of 15 Anabaptist martyrs are retold by Dave and Neta Jackson from *Martyrs Mirror*. These stories, including those of Michael Sattler, Elizabeth Dirks, and Dirk Willems, reflect a cross-section of the thousands of men and women who lost their lives because of their faith during the 16th century. The storytelling perspective varies: sometimes from the martyr's point of view or that of a friend or relative, sometimes that of a child or bystander or even the executioner or betrayer. The martyrs come alive through these stories and their witness for Christ inspires us. (*youth to adult*)

#### **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/UCX8KyFlZChK0Ef-rlBAaS3A>

#### **Pastor Corey Miller**

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
corey.miller@gwtc.net  
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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#### **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

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