



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Journey toward Peace
December 8, 2024
10:30am

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” - Luke 2:14

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *The Song of the Angels* (Robert J. Hughes) Sherilyn Ortman

Choral Call to Worship – *Praise Ye the Lord* (Wilson & Ehret) Men’s Choir

Call to Worship “The Heavenly Host”

Advent Candle Lighting – Congregation: join in *Hope Is a Candle* (vv. 1-2)
VT #211 immediately following the call to worship

Welcome and Opening Prayer Gwen Ortman

* Singing our Praise – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT #241

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Corby and Emma looking for Peace Pastor Corey

Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
MCC Infant Kits: 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)

Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 40:9-11

Anthem – *Salvation is Created* (Tschesnokoff) Men’s Choir

Hearing the Gospel Luke 2:8-14 Sherilyn Ortman

Sermon – “Peace Before Us” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Guiding us to Peace

Song – *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* (vv. 1,2,4) VT #250

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

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

* Benediction

Postlude – *Noel* (Louis-Claude Dauquin)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

In our Advent journey toward peace, we are invited to hear the angelic chorus proclaiming peace! What does this mean to us as individuals, to our community, and to Christ’s church around the world? Invite Jesus into that space where you are on the journey toward peace. Welcome to our worship!

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

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

Open House at Millers this afternoon – 3:00-6:00pm

We invite everyone at Salem-Zion to our home this afternoon for Christmas goodies, warm fellowship, and maybe even a story or two. We look forward to sharing Christmas cheer with you all.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 11 (Wed) – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm

Dec. 11 (Wed) – Adult choir rehearsals (chancel at 7pm, men/ladies at 8pm)

Dec. 13 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 15

Next Sunday we continue the season of Advent with the theme: *Journey Toward Joy*. The texts are Luke 2:15-20, Isaiah 55:10-13, and Romans 15:13. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving items for MCC infant kits. Items that will be received during our regular offering will be: 1 receiving blanket [lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 75 cm x 75 cm (30 in x 30 in), larger sizes preferred].

The offering will be for Mennonite Church USA.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 8 – Christmas Open House at the Miller’s Home from 3-6pm

Dec. 18 – Adult choir rehearsals (chancel at 7pm, men/ladies at 8pm)

Dec. 22 – Christmas Choir Service at 7:00pm at Salem-Zion Mennonite

Dec. 24 – Children’s Christmas Eve program at 7:00pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day worship service at 10:30am

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- The pipes at church got fixed and heat was restored to our church facility. Thanks to Lindy Graber for working hard to get our heat back on at church.

Remember to praise God for:

- the miraculous wonder of the shepherds hearing the angels proclaiming the reign of God!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- peace in the world beginning with our own offerings of peaceful words and actions.
- our sister and brother congregations across MC USA, each in their own unique ministry contexts. Help each of us to be faithful followers of Jesus, wherever we are.

Advent Opportunities to Grow and Give! During this year's Advent season, we invite you to join in the timeless story of Jesus' birth. One way that you and your family can do this is by reading through the Gospel of Luke. If you read one chapter a day during the month of December, you'll cover the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Let's dwell in God's Word together!

Also, with all the needs in the world, we are again receiving items for **infant kits** for Mennonite Central Committee. Each week during Advent through Epiphany, we are invited to bring items that will be received during the regular offering.

- Dec. 8 - 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- Dec. 15 - 1 receiving blanket [lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 75 cm x 75 cm (30 in x 30 in), larger sizes preferred]
- Dec. 22 - 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- Dec. 29 - 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- Jan. 5 - 1 pair of socks, 1 cap

Everyone is invited to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through Wednesday, December 18.

Community Connections

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

In need of a last-minute Christmas gift? How about giving someone you love the gift of purchasing bees, chickens or ducks from Mennonite Central Committee, for families in need around the world? These animals are an invaluable source of both food and income. Stop in to **Et Cetera Shoppe**, and for a \$15 donation, you can choose an animal and receive a small gift card telling your special someone which animal was purchased for them. When you participate in this Christmas Giving Project, we'll place an animal ornament

on our Christmas tree – hopefully, by Christmas, we'll have a tree covered with ornaments, and 30 animals headed to families who need them!

The November issue of the **Swan Lake Christian Camp newsletter** is available online at myslcc.com/about-us/newsletter/.

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting **Winter Retreats** this winter. 8th-12th grade retreat will be held January 10-12 and 5th-8th grade retreat will be held January 17-19. Cost is \$100 and registration is necessary and needs to be in 2 weeks prior to the weekend. There is an additional fee for late registrations. You can register online at myslcc.com as well as find out more information on the weekend.

Peace in Advent: *“Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.”* - Edward Hays