Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

January 2, 2022
Entering Love's Story: Wise Ones

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude — Sheila Epp

The Prophetic Voice — Isaiah 60:1-6 — Will Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship — John Epp

L: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

P: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

L: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

P: The darkness what surrounds us is gone!

L: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

ALL: Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* — VT #275

Greeting Each Other and "Passing the Peace"
"*The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.*"

Christ Candle Lighting — *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* — #273

Celebrating our Mission with the *Household Treasury*
MCC Infant Kits - 1 pair of socks, 1 cap

Children's Story — The Camel's Story — Lacey Friesen

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the New Testament – Ephesians 3:1-12 — S. Roy Kaufman

Song – *As with Gladness* — #277

* Hearing the Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12 — Sherilyn Ortman

Meditation – "Wise Ones Still Seek" — Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Testimony — Alice Graber

Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song - *See Whose Glory Fills the Skies* — #274

Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We conclude our Christmas worship season by remembering the long journey that the wise men took to find the Christ child. We marvel at the camels and the resilience of these astrologers who kept searching for this King. May we be guided by the Christ Light as we continue to journey with Jesus in this new year! Blessed Christmas season and may you experience light and love in this new year! Welcome to our worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**. Items for the MCC Infant Kits: **1 pair of socks, 1 cap**

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

THIS WEEK

Jan. 5 (Wed) – *Feeding Our Faith* (FOF) kickoff with supper (6:00pm) and activities planned for all ages
Jan. 6 (Thurs) – Deacon Meeting at 7:00pm
Jan. 6 (Thurs) – Outreach & Service Committee at 7:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY – January 9

Next Sunday we will reflect on the **Baptism of Jesus**. The texts are Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be celebrating **communion**.

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- The funeral service for Tammy Benjamin was held on Tuesday at Salem-Zion Mennonite. Special thanks to our funeral committee team that helped serve food following the service.
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Anglican cleric, died this past week at the age of 90. His good humor, inspiring message and conscientious work for civil and human rights made him a revered leader during the struggle to end apartheid in his native South Africa. One of his inspiring quotes continues to speak truth to us now: "God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion."

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.
- Dan, Ashlyn and Tyce Benjamin in the loss of their spouse and mother. Lord, have mercy on all who hurt.
- all who are caring for the sick and the suffering these days in our hospitals, nursing homes and care facilities. Lord, may your healing touch come in Jesus' name.
- a new year of spiritual growth, deeper love, and greater discipleship in each of our lives and in our congregations.

FOF – Feeding Our Faith: Everyone is invited to our Feeding Our Faith kickoff on January 5th in the Fellowship Hall. We will have pizza and salads and people are invited to bring any Christmas goodies. This intergenerational event will include games and some humor, so come for a good evening of fellowshipping together. Supper begins at 6:00pm.

COVID Team Update: Our most recent word to the congregation for gathered worship events was for people to be encouraged to sit in the designated pews (social distancing), wear masks in and out of the sanctuary (and for congregational singing), and use the hand sanitizers when they enter and leave worship. If people feel comfortable, they may remove their masks during the worship time. These practices are encouraged because they can help prevent spreading Covid to others and these practices are a gesture of love and respect to others. As always, we will continue to monitor our situation and make adjustments accordingly. Thank you for your diligence in this matter as well as your grace and patience in this time. - Covid Task Team

Thank You! Our whole family has felt enveloped by love this Christmas season with your offerings of food, your words of encouragement in cards, and your thoughtful gifts to us. Salem-Zion, you do caring very well! We thank you all for each one of your gestures of love to us and we feel so blessed to be a part of this nurturing congregation. Thank you again, Corey, Nancy, Hannah and Rachel.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the **MCC Infant Kits during Advent**. The kits will be assembled in the not-too-distant future and we will dedicate and bless these kits that will provide relief and hope for those in need.

December Offerings & Gifts: Household Treasury - $33,977.11; Deacon Sharing Fund - $5,168.00; Bearcat Avenue - $363.00; Endowment - $4,350.00; Student Tuition Sharing Fund - $200.00; Ross Richers - $200.00; Mennonite Women - $2,012.12; Cemetery - $3,012.10; The Banquet (Thanksgiving offering) - $2,685.00.

December Household Treasury Report – Income: $33,977.11; Expenses: $14,602.53; Balance: $30,536.16.

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

Now that the carols are sung, the cookies digested and the pine branches wilted, you may be thinking, "What's next?" Boy does the Christian Formation Committee of CPMC have an answer for you! For the second year, we've created a special series of webinars we're calling "Season of Stories" to help us connect, learn, play and pray together. Check out the **full webinar schedule** on our website! We'd love to see you online! www.centralplainsmc.org

Mennonite Church USA is planning several webinars to help delegates for the upcoming Special Session of the Delegate Assembly, May 27-30, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri. For a list of webinars and other resources, visit the online resource page: mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate.

Want to know more about the exciting things happening across our denomination? Subscribe to **PeaceMail**, Mennonite Church USA's weekly news digest: mennoniteusa.org/peacemail.

God's Peace at Christmas: "Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die." - Peter Chrysologus

"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

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

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