

GRACE HILL NEMMONITE CHURCH

January 3, 2010

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Tara Harms-Becker

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Josh Patterson

Arise! Shine! Reveal the mystery!

We have hoped for and celebrated God bursting into our reality through God's incarnation in Jesus. Now the body of Christ, the church, is called to "break out" and live into its cosmic vocation. God works through the unexpected and is recognized by foreign magi. Once more the humble, local and particular reveals God's cosmic, epic, and universal activity.

Gathering and Praising

Prelude

Welcoming Guests and Announcements

During this time we spend a few moments introducing our guests. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we meet together with our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lighting the God Candle

* **Call to Worship** based upon Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

One: The darkness has ended. The Lord is here. Arise, shine, your light has come!

Many: We have a story to tell the nations. Let us lift up our eyes and look around us; let us come, one and all, to worship our Lord.

One: Almighty and eternal God, Lord Christ, we thank you for your birth, for showing us the way back to God.

All: May all the world receive her glorious king with joy! Amen.

* **Opening Prayer**

* **Gathering Hymn No. 216** *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Nancy Harms

Focus Text Matthew 2:1-12

Text of Hope Isaiah 60:1-6

Candle Lighting

Beloved of God, Arise! Shine! Reveal the mystery! (Congregation is invited to stand)

Ours is a holy vocation, a journey of cosmic proportions. The God who bursts in, now calls us to break out into the world. We are the church, God's chosen agent through which the mystery of God is being revealed in humble ways, Beloved, we can shine!

* **Hymn No. 219** *Bright and glorious is the sky*

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding

Litany of Response based on Psalm 25 & Psalm 72

One: Lord, on this celebration of Epiphany, we rejoice in your presence with us and long for your return. We pray with the Psalmist:

Many: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.

One: In the midst of uncertainty and fear, we pray

Many: do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

One: We confess that we have tried many paths and that our wandering has made us weary. Sometimes the stars we follow are made by human hands. Forgive us.

Many: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths. Like the magi, show us how to find the Savior.

One: We come looking for your grace, not because we have earned it, but because of your merciful love for all people. We pray:

Many: May your kingdom come, O Lord!

One: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, righteousness. May the Lord defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

Many: May righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

One: Good and upright is the Lord; for God delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. The Lord redeems their life;

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness! Praise the Lord!

Offering Mennonite Church USA

Celebrating Holy Communion

Prayers of the People

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 121** *Holy God, we praise thy name*

* **Benediction**

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

At the conclusion of the worship service we invite the adults to be seated and take a few moments to greet one another while the children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

The bread for our communion service was baked by the High School Youth Group. The communion servers are Grace Hill's college age young adults.

For Sharing and Prayer

In the hospital: Elfrieda Schmidt, Via Christi St. Francis, Wichita

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Conference Minister search committee as it discerns new leadership for our area conference.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray that MMN personnel may begin this year with renewed openness to the movement of Jesus' spirit that brings healing and hope to the world.

Church Events

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children’s and Youth Programming
7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Choir
7:45 – 8:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Wednesday at 7:20 p.m. Business Council meets at church.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Next Sunday at 7:00 p.m. High School Parents' Meeting: During the month of January, the High School will be discussing the topic of Sexuality. We would like to meet with all parents on Sunday, January 10, at 7 in the evening, before we start this series. Please let Pastor Katherine know if you have any questions. Thanks!

January 13 – 19 Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. The sign-up sheet for meals and volunteers is on the bulletin board.

January 22-24 Junior High Snow Camp

February 7 at 12:45 p.m. Grace Hill Annual Business Meeting

Et Cetera

The 2010 annual meeting of Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service will be held January 17 at 2:30 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S. Main, Hesston. Jeff Blackburn, pastor of Greensburg Mennonite Church will be the featured speaker. He will talk about the challenges of recovering from disaster: personally, for the church and for the community. Everyone interested in MDS is invited to come.

Everyone interested in Agri-Urban and it's programs is invited to an appreciation dinner on January 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eden Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall, 4 miles west and 2 miles north of Moundridge. Please make reservations with Russell Entz (316-799-1217) by January 10. A program will follow the meal.

Announcements

High School Snow Camp: Please be sure to turn in your Snow Camp forms by Sunday, January 10 (the date has been pushed back a week) for the March 12-14 Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Thanks!

Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donate this month: canned vegetables. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

You're invited to join "Prayers of the Church" each Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Please feel free to place prayer requests in the prayer box in the foyer.

Nursery This Sunday: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Nursery Next Sunday: Tammy Regehr and Amanda Regehr

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Terry Klassen

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine

Keyboard Next Sunday: Linda Harms

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,034.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Pastor: Peter Goerzen Office:

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Secretary's E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org