



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

November 27, 2016

Worship – 9:30am

Sunday School – 10:45am

Advent 2016

**God's peace is at hand.
Come, walk in the way of God's heart.**

Prelude

* Gathering Song *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* HWB 172
(Vs. 1, 2, & 3)

Greetings & Announcements

Gathering Interlude – *"What Child is This"*

Gathering

Leader: **In the nighttime of despair, we are filled
with doubt.**

People: We are overwhelmed with busyness and the
compulsion to do. We have lost our way.

Leader: **The night is almost over. We are emerging
from our doubt.**

People: O God, show us the way of your heart.

Leader: **Come quickly, to show us.**

All: ***The dawn is nigh. Show us the way.***

* *"Come Light of the World"*

STS 3

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Advent Reading: Psalm 122

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

HWB 346

Prayer of confession

L: God of peace,

P: We yearn to walk in your way but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain. Save us, Lord, from the pride and foolishness of choosing our own course, that we may humbly and confidently follow your lead, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Silence... Words of Assurance...

L: Throughout the tumult of life,

God holds you close in love.

Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide,

God's compassion is your strength.

God's love is your redemption.

ALL: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!

* Song *"Spirit of the Living God"* HWB 349

Offering to God Western District Conference

Offertory *"I Wonder as I Wander"*

* *Doxology* (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children's Story

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1; 28:16-20

Special Music "Two French Carols"

Sermon *The Good News of Jesus*

* Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" HWB 210

* Benediction

Come! Walk in the ways of God's heart.

The dawn is breaking!

Christ is coming to free us from despair.

He will show us the way.

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- After the Children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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.
- The Adult Sunday School classes will begin 10 minutes after the service is over. Everyone is welcome!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	K. John Klaassen
Psalm 122 Readers	Courtney Nethercot, David Janzen, Samantha Claassen
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Song Leader	Bonita Schroeder
Clarinet	Valerie Klaassen
Greeters	Adrian & Courtney Nethercot
Ushers	Josh Patterson & Rob Schunn
Nursery	Kris Goossen & Renata Goossen

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC pastors and congregations in the midst of transition, challenge and opportunity.

Mennonite Mission Network: Petrus and Yuliana Handoyo and their two sons are sent to Cambodia by an Indonesian Mennonite mission agency and Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for Petrus as he teaches religion and ethics in two universities, and for Yuliana as she directs an education ministry for children living on the edge of the city.

Thank you for the salads and desserts provided for the Harvest Thank meal. Thank you to those that helped set up before the meal, and those that helped clean up after the meal. It made our job much easier.

Thank you! Social Committee

Church Events

Beginning Wednesday, November 30 and continuing every Wednesday in December at 7:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Program practice for preschool through high school age. Please talk to Josh Patterson or Courtney Nethercot if you have questions.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Choir practice. The choir will sing next Sunday, December 4.

Announcements

The wall hanging in the foyer has been loaned to us by Alma Schmidt. She made it while taking a class in Newton. Thanks for letting us enjoy it during this season.

Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Janzen and Bethany Regehr

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Greeters Next Sunday: Allen and Elaine Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$3,185.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - Mornings, Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Et Cetera

You are invited to join the First Mennonite Church (Newton) choir in singing the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 18 at 7 pm. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday afternoons, November 20-December 11 from 2 to 3:30 pm and Wednesdays, November 30-December 14 from 7:15-8 pm in the First Mennonite Church sanctuary, 429 E. 1st, Newton. Please bring your own book or purchase one for \$10 at the first rehearsal. Questions? Please contact Kay Schroeder at 316-283-0273 or email kays@firstmennonitewton.org.

Annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, Nov. 30 at 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; scores provided.

The Bethel College Women's Association Council needs your help in providing Christmas cookies, peppernuts, cinnamon rolls, candy, and other Christmas baked goods to sell at the 5 Places of Christmas, December 3. This year, we will be joining with the Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts. Please bring your goodies to the Kauffman Museum on Friday, December 2 during museum hours or Saturday morning 8-10.

Five Places of Christmas: Bethel College Women's Association will join with Kauffman Museum for this annual holiday event, December 3 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Come to the museum for homemade candy (by the pound) and baked goods for sale, performances by Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts students, pictures with Mrs. Santa, music on the historic Teschemacher-Deknatel-Van der Smitten parlor organ at 3 p.m.; free admission to the museum, including the special exhibit "Memory Matters: Works by Gesine Janzen."

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will be giving a Christmas Brass Concert in the Historic Alexanderwohl Church Sun., December 11 at 7 p.m. Alexanderwohl is located 1 mile north of Goessel on K-15 Hwy.

The Newton Et Cetera Shop is seeking new volunteers! We have a fabulous crew at work every day, but need a little extra help. If you (or your Sunday school class or your small group) have a Saturday a month to help at the store, please let us know! If you have a Monday morning to spare, you're welcome to join our volunteer rug crew working at Kidron-Bethel Village in North Newton. Our next "New Volunteer Orientation" is Tuesday, December 6, 6:30-7:30 at the store. Please call if you'd like to sign up: 316-283-9461. Thank you for 40 years of support for the Newton Et Cetera Shop and its mission!

College Internship Opportunity with Mennonite Church USA: The Mennonite Church USA Communications team is looking for interns! Beginning in January and culminating in July 2017 at Mennonite Church USA Convention in Orlando, these internships will include positions for writers, editors, photographers, social media and graphic design. Internships will be paid and prioritize students of color. Interested students should contact janiebk@mennoniteusa.org for more information.

A revised resolution on Israel/Palestine had been prepared for consideration by delegates at the 2017 Mennonite Church USA Assembly in Orlando, with an invitation for church members to offer feedback and comments about it by December 20. The resolution will be submitted to the MC USA Resolutions Committee in January 2017. See <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/seeking-peace-israel-palestine/> to read the resolution and find an online feedback form. The resolution seeks to speak in a distinctively Mennonite voice, embracing a restorative justice framework by naming ways Mennonites have participated in harms, committing to concrete steps to address these wrongs and outlining ways to implement and support these initiatives. The resolution pursues a "two-handed" approach, speaking clearly against injustice and violence and also extending a hand of understanding and relationship to all parties.

The Mennonite Women USA Housewarmer Project continues to donate quilted wall hangings to Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to give to the homeowner when their home is completed and a dedication takes place. MDS is hard at work rebuilding after flooding in West Virginia, Detroit, Michigan, Lafayette, Louisiana, a typhoon in Saipan, and will soon begin rebuilding after wildfires in California. We are getting very low on quilted wall hangings. If quilting is your gift, please consider sharing. See the link for more information - <http://mennonitewomenusa.org/housewarmer/>.

Our vision at Grace Hill Mennonite Church is for a revitalized ministry seeking authentic community that honors Christ by:

discerning our gifting;

developing a leadership team;

deepening our core ministries of

care, education and hospitality.