

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 29, 2009

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Keyboard: Julia Washburn

Worship Leader: Hannah Klaassen

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

*Take heart! God is coming to make things right!*

**Focus Statement:** In the midst of chaos and confusion, fear and foreboding in our world we wait for God to burst into our reality with a cosmic, epic impact. We know that God often comes into our reality in unexpected ways and we have confidence in God to make things right.

**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 Psalm 25:1-10 and Luke 21:25-36

**One:** We live in troubled times, waiting for God's burst of light into our dark world. Take heart! God will make things right.

**Many:** As we wait, we pray that the Lord will sustain us and help us to walk in a right path. May God cast out the fear of darkness and light up our lives with hope.

**One:** We greet Jesus' coming to make things right.

**All:** Let us worship God, whose mercy promises us new life through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* **Opening Prayer**

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 46** *I sing the mighty power of God*

**Proclaiming**

**Scripture Reading**

Cody Claassen

**Focus Text:** Luke 21:25-36 *We take seriously the fear and foreboding in our world, and God's desire, intention, and ability to burst in to make things right.*

**Text of Hope:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 *Words of hope, confidence, and safety. God can be trusted to fulfill God's promises, and to make things right.*

**Candle Lighting**

We light this first candle of Advent in anticipation of God's bursting in and breaking out. In the midst of our realities, and in the realities of our world, God bursts in and calls us to break out from the things that hold us captive to fear, confusion, even despair. We light this candle as a reminder to take heart, God is coming to make things right. The path God reveals is the mystery that even now, things are being made right. Beloved, take heart!

**Special Music** *Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus* arr. by Smith  
Todd Shults accompanied by Ellen Mosiman

**Children's Moments**

Lisa Schmidt

*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*

\* **Advent Hymn No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel*

**Sermon**

Pastor Peter

**Responding**

**Litany of Response** based on Psalm 25:1-10

**One:** Lord, in this time of Advent, we worry about the future and long for your purposes to be fulfilled. 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 wandering has made us weary.

*North: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.*

**South: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

**Many:** We come looking for your grace, not because we deserve it, but because of your merciful love for all people.

*North: As we wait, we rejoice in your goodness and righteousness.  
Teach us your ways.*

**South: Good and upright is the Lord; all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

***All: God will make things right. Amen.***

**Offering** Harvey County Homeless Shelter

**Offertory Prayer** based on Romans 12:1-8

One: Almighty God, we gather today to dedicate ourselves anew to your love that is ever seeking fullness in our hearts. We thank you that we are called into the fellowship and service of Jesus Christ, and that Christ is able and willing to use us to proclaim the kingdom of his love. You have formed us to be a people - the body of Christ, at work in your world.

**Many: We celebrate and dedicate the gifts you have given us to carry out the work of your kingdom.**

One: You have given your people many gifts. You have called some to teach, some to administer, some to offer hospitality, some to share the Good News, some to heal.

***All: You have given each of us gifts. We offer ourselves— our gifts, our time, our energy, our resources— to you. Amen.***

**Offertory Hymn No. 389** *Take my life* to be sung as the offering is taken  
vs. 1, 4, 5 & 6 – all vs. 2 – women vs. 3 – men

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Service of Communion**

#### ***Sending***

\* **Sending Hymn No. 175** *O Savior, rend the heavens*

\* **Benediction** 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

### **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!**

## For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you to Todd Shults and Ellen Mosiman for providing special music this morning. Todd Shults is the Instrumental Music Director at Remington High School. Ellen is a junior at RHS.

Thank you so much for all of the words of encouragement and the many prayers that surrounded us during my recent hospitalization. Words can not express our gratitude and thankfulness for having such a wonderful church family. Thank you to all who took time to visit, send cards and deliver food and especially to Pastor Peter and Pastor Katherine for the multiple hospital visits. Diana and the Schunn family

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for the courageous witnesses in your congregation who advocate for the poor, the disenfranchised, the lonely, the sick and the dying. Name and thank God for at least one person who modeled Christian living for you.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Benin Bible Institute's vision includes agricultural training for pastors, most of whom are self-supporting. Knowledge of farming helps to provide food for pastoral families, and introduces improved techniques into local practice. Pray that God would provide the teaching staff and material resources for this new program.

## high school youth group

**Angel Tree Shopping:** On Wednesday, December 2, we will be shopping for this year's Angel Tree following the Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal. Please bring \$10 a person.

**Christmas Party:** Following the Caroling with Spiritual Council on Sunday, December 6 (starting at 1:30), we will have our annual Christmas Party at Katherine and Peter's house from 6-9. Please bring a White Elephant Gift (\$5 or less) for a White Elephant Gift exchange.

## Church Events

**This evening at 7:00 p.m.** Come sing in the Christmas season with a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing this evening at 7:00 p.m. at church. Invite family and friends!

**Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** Education Council meets at church.

**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

**Next Sunday, December 6 at 1:30 p.m.** Middle school and high school Christmas caroling with the Spiritual Council. Meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. We plan to return to the church by 4:30 p.m. for chili and all the fixins. Jr. Youth can be picked up from church between 5:00-5:30 p.m.

**Next Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.** Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Explorers S.S. class is in charge.

**Monday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m.** Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: *Holy Night* presented by Elaine Patterson; Please bring a nativity set, if you have one that can be transported, and tell something about it. Also bring a plate of goodies. Hostess & Devotions: Elaine Patterson; Financial Project: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army & Mitten Tree.

### December Wednesday Schedule

**December 2** Meal and programming as usual

**December 9** Programming as usual

**December 16 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Wednesday Night Christmas Party for pre-school through junior high! No meal.

**December 23 & 30** No programming planned

Youth and Adult Choir – practice singing for Christmas Eve program - to be announced.

## Announcements

**Mittens/Gloves** - You are invited to bring new mittens and gloves to decorate the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. They will be donated to the Salvation Army, Newton. All sizes are welcome. The project is sponsored by the Hands of Friendship.

**Poinsettias for the Youth Group Fundraiser** can be picked up next Sunday, December 6 after the worship service. Thank you for your support!

**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:** Diana Schunn and Emily Klassen

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Lon Hiebert and Dean Patterson

**Preaching Next Sunday:** Pastor Peter

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Pastor Katherine

**Offering Last Sunday:** Western District Conference \$1,349.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA

### **CHURCH OFFICES**

**Pastors' Office Hours:**

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

**Pastor: Peter Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [pastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

*Secretary's E-mail:* [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Website:** [www.gracehillmc.org](http://www.gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale House Against Hunger** is nearing completion. The public is invited to an Open House at 604 Church Drive, Inman from 1 - 5 p.m. this afternoon. (Weather permitting). Proceeds from the 14<sup>th</sup> House Against Hunger to benefit Mennonite Central Committee. What is a House Against Hunger? The Hunger House is a home constructed using donated and discounted materials and services. The house is sold with the profits donated to Mennonite Central Committee via the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. For more information, please contact Richard Ediger, Committee Chairperson at 620-543-2787; Verbie and Bruce Thiessen at 620-585-2282; or Gail Wiens at 620-585-2433.

**Support Community Playschool** with your purchases at Ten Thousand Villages on December 3 from 5.30 until closing - a percentage goes to Playschool. That is the Newton Parade of Lights night! Our church is a sponsor of the Playschool.

**Kidron Bethel Village Christmas Gift Market** will be Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Menno Hall, 3001 Ivy Drive, North Newton. Residents will offer for sale their original arts and crafts creations and food gifts.

**Upcoming training sessions for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter:** Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 18 at 10:00 a.m., Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, contact Donna Balzer.

**Harvey County Homeless Shelter** presents the Fourth Annual Christmas Dinner Theatre on December 10, 11 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. 1<sup>st</sup>, Newton. Individual tickets are \$15, \$250 per table sponsor or \$500 per event sponsor. For more information or reservations contact Darla or Christa at Regier Construction 316-283-3729 or [event@hchs-ks.com](mailto:event@hchs-ks.com). More information is on the bulletin board.

**Western District Conference**, with offices in North Newton, invites applications for the full-time position of Conference Minister. Position begins June 15, 2010. Apply with letter of application and completed MLI to Tom Harder, search committee chair, at [tom.harder@lorraineavenue.org](mailto:tom.harder@lorraineavenue.org), no later than December 31, 2009. Please encourage qualified persons you know to apply.

**Mennonite Education Agency** has a website at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS) where monthly "Prayers for Faith and Learning" can be accessed. You can also sign up for a free subscription to "Prayers." E-mail [info@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org) and use "Subscription to Prayers" as the subject.