



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 3, 2017

Worship – 9:30am
Sunday School – 10:45am

Advent 2017

Advent 1 - "Let it Be"

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

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

Gathering

Leader: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the God of trembling mountains and shaking foundations.

All: O God, your expectations terrify us. How can our small selves hold your blazing presence?
(Pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

**All: Lead us beyond our resistance.
Let it be.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Isaiah 9:1-3 Bethany Regehr

Prayer of Confession

L: O God of power and might, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down, yet we tremble and quake at the thought.
P: We confess that even though we know your light, we do not like the dark, empty void where your Spirit hovers over the waters.
L: We shake like leaves in the wind, fearful of what you might ask, afraid to trust you completely.
P: Caught up in the swirling of our world we struggle to "let it be."
Forgive us, O God.

Silence... Words of assurance

L: O God, Emmanuel in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
P: You have given us life, and we are restored.

* Song "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HWB 178
Offering to God Mennonite Church USA
Offertory
*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119
Sharing and Congregational Prayer
Children's Story "Woodworker's Visit"
Scripture Reading Mark 13:24-37
Drama "Wisdom & Wonder"
Sermon "Be Alert, Keep Watch"
* Hymn "Amazing Grace" HWB 143

* Benediction

As you go from this place, may you be given peace. When the presence of God shakes the world in which you live, may you remember that the invitation to walk with Jesus is not a promise of safety, but rather a call to courage.

May the Spirit embolden you to let it be. Amen.

* Sending Song "Go, My Friends, in Grace" STS 57

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- Following the children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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	Deb Hiebert
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Music	Praise Team
Greeters	Allen & Elaine Patterson
Ushers	Lucas Goossen & Lon Hiebert
Nursery	Kris Janzen & Bethany Regehr

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: As we anticipate holiday celebrations, let us pray for WDC's Hispanic pastors in Dallas, TX, as they gather this week for a Christmas dinner.

Mennonite Mission Network: Asher and Lindsey Fast, serving through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, are helping to build the after-school program at the Mother Theresa Resource Centre in Botswana. They are also assisting in a local elementary school. Pray for wisdom and energy, and healing for Lindsey's back and neck.

Church Events

Monday at 8:00 p.m. Care Council meets.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Leadership Council meets.

December 11 at 12:00 p.m. Ladies, mark your calendars for the annual Hands of Friendship Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 11 at 12:00 noon. Bring a salad or dessert. Casseroles, bread and drink will be provided.

There are several opportunities for sharing during the Christmas season:

- Through the Salvation Army, we will be assisting a family of four with a gift card for their Christmas shopping. Contributions will be accepted. (Checks made to Hands of Friendship.)
- A Christmas tree in our church fellowship hall will be available for hanging new mittens, gloves, caps. These will also be donated to the Salvation Army. Come prepared for an offering.

If you have questions, contact Elaine Patterson (283-6844), Marge Harms (283-4314), or Joyce Stuart (620-327-2578).

Announcements

The elementary school and preschool age children will be singing two songs on Christmas Eve. They will be practicing during the Sunday School hour during the month of December. We will not have any rehearsals for the Christmas Eve program this year. If you have questions, please see Courtney Nethercot or Valerie Klaassen.

The Food Pantries are all in need of items this Christmas season. Please consider purchasing items to donate. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Et Cetera

A Hymn Sing to introduce the new hymnal with Bradley Kauffman, project director and general editor for the new hymnal, will take place this evening, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton.

We need your help! Camp Mennoscah is seeking volunteers to help prepare the kitchen for renovations Monday-Saturday **December 4-9** until the kitchen is completely gutted. Much of the food, dishes, and lighter kitchen appliances have already been moved out, so the remaining work will include moving heavier items and the demolition work. Both women and men are welcome to come out and help. All work will be inside, so don't worry about cold temperatures! If you wish to volunteer multiple days, that's great! We can arrange lodging and meals for you. Carpooling to camp may be available on some or all of the days. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Yoder at 316-284-3890 (call or text), jdyoder@cox.net, or Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290, office@campmennoscah.org. Bring a friend, or bring multiple friends!

Annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, Wednesday December 6 at 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; scores provided.

Brass Christmas: Come join us at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening filled with Christmas music! The evening will feature the McPherson Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews along with the Elbiata Singers from Goessel High School under the direction of Andrew Voth. A freewill offering will be received to support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. We hope to see you there!

32nd annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, Sunday, December 10 at 8 p.m.

Ten Thousand Village/Fair Trade International Gift Festival is coming to Newton at the Mezzanine above Prairie Harvest, 601 N Main. It will be open on December 3, 8-10, 15-17. Hours on Fridays and Saturdays: 10 am-5 pm. Hours on Sundays: 1-4 pm.

Looking for fun and caring staffers filled with God's love for others! Online applications for Camp Mennoscah summer staff positions will be accepted beginning December 1. The positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. These positions receive a stipend, as well as meals and lodging. We also are looking for someone to catalogue the species of snakes at Camp Mennoscah. This summer-long position receives meals and lodging and requires the same paperwork and background check as all camp staff. Apply online at campmennoscah.org/application!

Year of Evangelism Kick Off: Anabaptist Witness has two terrific speakers planned for January 19-20, 2018. Friday evening missional author, Heidi Roland Unruh, will share insights and Saturday morning Mennonite Mission Network Director of Discipleship Initiatives, Marvin Lorenzana, offers challenge and encouragement. Learn more and register now at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will take place April 13 & 14, 2018 in Hutchinson. This is the 50th Anniversary of the sale!

Advent At Home begins today! Download the free guide for Advent family worship at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org. "Yes! Let It Be!" will help you slow down with your children to ponder and prepare for what it means to receive Jesus.

Nursery Next Sunday: Katherine Claassen & Kaye Penner

Greeters Next Sunday: John and Miriam Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and David Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$815.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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