

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 13, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Sara Unruh

Chorister: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Samantha Claassen

*Rejoice! God comes in mercy to turn us around*

*God's turning us around toward right living is our salvation. This is not a reason for anxiety; it is reason to celebrate. When we live and walk in peace and justice, God triumphs gloriously over the powers of oppression and fear.*

**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**

**Choral Call to Worship** *O Come, Emanuel*

Adult Choir

\* **Call to Worship** based on Isaiah 12:2-6 & Zephaniah 3:14-20

**One:** We live in troubled times, waiting for God's light to burst into our dark world. Rejoice! God is coming in mercy to turn us around!  
**Many:** God takes away all judgments against us, we no longer fear disaster. God takes down oppressors and lifts up the oppressed. God restores our hearts and minds and brings us home.

**All:** *May we turn to God with prayer and thanksgiving. May we be ready to proclaim to all the good news of God's grace. May we turn to others in generosity and sharing.*

\* **Opening Prayer**

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 184** *Hark! The glad sound!*

**Proclaiming**

**Scripture Reading**

Courtney Claassen

Focus Text: Luke 3:7-18

Text of Hope: Isaiah 12:2-6

**Candle Lighting**

Carson Dove

The first candle reminds us to take heart. The second candle reminds us to get ready and choose the path of peace. The third candle of Advent anticipates God's bursting in and breaking out. God bursts in and calls us to break out of behaviors that are selfish and oppressive towards our neighbors. We light this candle as a reminder that in God's mercy, God turns us around. Beloved of God, rejoice! God comes to turn us around. God reveals the way of peace.

**Special Music** *Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light*

Adult Choir

**Children's Moments**

Kris Janzen

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

\* **Advent Hymn No. 195** *It came upon a midnight clear*

**Sermon**

Pastor Katherine

**Responding**

**Litany of Response** based on Zephaniah 3:14-20

**One:** Lord, in this time of Advent, we celebrate your presence with us and long for your coming. We rejoice that you do not forget us, but break into the confusion of our lives. You keep coming in mercy to turn us around.

**Many:** Lord, help us in our turning around. Help us repent and turn toward you.

**North:** *We confess that we have tried many paths, and that our wandering has made us weary.*

**All:** *Guide us with your grace.*

**South:** Lord, in your loving kindness, help us to fear no more.

**All:** *Rejoice! Sing aloud! God forgives!*

**North:** *We rejoice because God is in our midst, turning us around and taking away our fear. God rejoices over us with gladness, God renews us with love.*

**South:** God saves the lame, gathers up the outcasts and changes their shame into praise.

**All:** *We rejoice in your plan of salvation! You restore your people. Lord, come to save us! Amen.*

\* **Hymn of Response No. 185** *Hail to the Lord's anointed*

**Offering** Local Church Missions

**Prayers of the People**

*Sending*

\* **Sending Hymn No. 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

\* **Benediction** Philippians 4:4-9

**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**

We celebrate with Chris Wiebe and Catina Cunningham, who will be united in marriage this Saturday, and pray God's blessing as they begin their new life together.

Marjorie Harms remains at Newton Medical Center.

I wish to thank my church family for your prayers, visits, phone calls, flowers and food during my stay at Newton Medical Center and later at my home. Thank you Pastor Peter and Pastor Katherine for your many visits and concerns. Thanks to all of you. Elva Unruh

**Western District Conference:** Pray for the Vision 2012 Steering Committee as it guides the prayer and funding campaign for WDC. We need 200 more people to give \$1,000 to meet our final goal!

**Mennonite Mission Network:** People in Sweden celebrate St. Lucia Day with candles on this date just before the winter solstice, a turning point in the darkness of winter. Pray for Disa and Tom Rutschman and their family as they share the light of Jesus through teaching and other youth ministries from their home on the Arctic Circle.

## Church Events

**Tuesday afternoon** Quilters: You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on Tuesday afternoons anytime from 1-5 p.m.

**Wednesday 7:00 p.m.** Children's Christmas party!  
**7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Christmas Eve Choir practice  
**7:45 – 8:15 p.m.** Adult Bible Study with Pastor Peter

**There will be no meal this Wednesday.**

**Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** Worship Council meets at church.

**December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Program at Grace Hill.

**January 2** High School Youth: Saturday, January 2, we will meet at the church at 2 p.m. to bake communion bread for the following Sunday. Following that, we will head to the Breadbasket to enjoy their German Buffet.

**January 13-19, 2010** Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter.

## Announcements

**Junior High Snow Camp Forms** are due today. Please see Pastor Katherine if you have any questions.

**The Health Resource Team** will do blood pressure checks the second Sunday of each month in the library at 11:30 a.m. (following Sunday school). If you have any questions please contact Kaye Penner.

**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:** Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Deb Regier and Katie Regier

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

**Preaching Next Sunday:** Pastor Peter

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Jana Harms

**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA \$2,153.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

## Et Cetera

**Volunteer for M-2 in 2010 - Training December 21** The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries seeks new volunteers to be involved in prison visitation. Ministry in prison requires a training session given by both prison staff and the M-2 director. The upcoming training will be Monday, December 21 from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. Other opportunities will be available in January. Call OVM. M-2 is a supervised in-prison friendship program. Your friendship, love and concern can be a crucial element in a successful life following incarceration. Most of the inmates in M-2 receive no other visits than those of their M-2 friend. More than 50 men are waiting to be matched. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. No special skills are needed to be a friend. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) or email (ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to submit your name and other required information so that clearances may be obtained for admission to training. Please contact us by Dec. 14.

**Just in time for Christmas, a Wish List for the Western District Conference Resource Library** has been posted at: <http://www.mennowdc.org/CRLWishList122009.pdf>. You will find a list of new resources we would just love to add to our collection so they may be shared with dozens of other congregations. Thanks!

**Camp Mennoscah - Merry Christmas!** We, the staff of Camp Mennoscah, send you Christmas greetings. You can see our short letter at [www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html](http://www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html). Also, warm the hearts of the ones you love! Give the gift of a Kansas summer with a Camp Mennoscah tee shirt, mug, cookbook or history book. Contact Camp Mennoscah at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or 620-297-3290.

**The Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus registration** for the spring concerts is taking place now. For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board or talk to Willard Wiebe.

### **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)