



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 17, 2017

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

Advent 2017

Advent 3 - "Let it Be Whole"

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

* Song "To Us A Child of Hope is Born" HWB 189

Gathering

Leader: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from God of restoration.

All: **O God, you amaze us with your promise to build up the ancient ruins. You say you will replace the ashes of the past with garlands of beauty.**
(pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

All: **Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path of peace.**

Leader: Let it be whole.

Lighting of the Third Candle: Isaiah 61:1-2 Isaac Hernandez

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" HWB 206

Prayer of Confession

L: O God of peace, your justice wells up like a spring, bringing dreams, laughter, and salvation to the world.

P: We confess we so often stifle your Spirit. We are afraid to claim that you anointed us to carry your upside-down Kingdom into our broken world, where the lowly are trampled upon, the hungry go away empty, and the rich increase in power and might. We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair what we have broken, imprisoned, and oppressed. Forgive us when we do not catch your vision.

L: Lead us beyond our fears, and guide us on the path to peace.

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.

Offering to God Kidron Bethel Health Care

Offertory
*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children's Story "Woodworker's Visit"

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Drama "Wisdom & Wonder"

Scripture Reading Luke 4:16-30

Special Music "Greensleeves"

Sermon "What Child is This?"

* Hymn "What Child is This?" HWB 215

* Benediction

May the God of restoration make you holy and whole. May your body, spirit, and soul be knit together in preparation for the coming of the One who calls all to dwell in the fullness of grace. 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	Donna Balzer
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Flute	Samantha Claassen
Song Leader	Bonita Schroeder
Greeters	John & Miriam Claassen
Ushers	Mike Balzer & Kendall Claassen
Nursery	Marge Harms & Quinn Dove

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: As we anticipate the giving of Christmas gifts, let us thank God for the many different multicultural expressions and gifts in WDC congregations.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture program invites teens and young adults (ages 16-22) to participate in a short-term learning and service experience during the summer of 2018. Pray for open hearts in those whom God is calling to Benin, Ecuador, Japan, Peru or Spain.

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.

As winter weather season is here – a reminder of the contingency plan for weather cancellation of church services: The congregation will be notified by email. The three local TV stations will be notified. If you would like to receive a phone call, please contact Tim Harms to be placed on the calling list.

Nursery Next Sunday: Courtney Nethercot and Lily Hilgenfeld

Greeters Next Sunday: Adrian and Courtney Nethercot

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$6,686.15

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Church Events

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Charlies, Newton.



Next Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite neighbors and friends to be our guests to celebrate the Christmas Story! The offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

Et Cetera

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is open regular hours through the holidays: Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. (closed Monday). Visit "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," extended through Jan. 21, 2018, and the newest special exhibit, "Chisholm Trail: Driving the American West," opening Dec. 19, through April 1, 2018, as well as the permanent exhibits "Of Land and People" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

Year of Evangelism Kick Off: Anabaptist Witness has a host of great workshop leaders who will offer practical ideas to take home to your church and neighborhood. Here are just a few: James Krabill, Joe Sawatzky, Brad Roth, Byron Pellecer, Kathy Neufeld Dunn, and keynote speakers Heidi Roland Unruh and Marvin Lorenzana. Learn more and register at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>.

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