

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 20, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Jana Harms

Chorister: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Brian Hilgenfeld

God Delivers!

God's plan breaks out into light. The God of the cosmos delivers a small child as the savior! God also delivers on promises, on God's grand program of breaking out from oppression, of bringing down the proud and raising up the lowly!

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 80:1-7 & Luke 1:39-55

One: We live in troubled times, but God's light bursts into our dark world.

Many: God delivers on promises. We feel the stirring of a new age. God is the shepherd taking care of his flock. God has brought down the powerful and exalted the lowly.

One: The Lord is coming! We long for salvation, yet how we tremble at its advent!

All: We trust and will not be afraid, for you have promised that the child now leaping in the womb will exceed our hopes and deliver us from our fears. All glory and praise be to you, O God of promise. We worship you!

* Opening Prayer

* Gathering Hymn No. 181 *My soul proclaims with wonder*

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Focus Text: Luke 1:39-56

Text of Hope: Micah 5:2-5a

James Regier

Candle Lighting

Renata Goossen

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 reminds us that God turns us around. The fourth candle of Advent anticipates God's bursting in and breaking out. God bursts in to deliver! God's labor delivers a new dream of good news which breaks the powers of oppression and lifts up the lowly. We light this candle as a reminder that God delivers. The path God reveals comes to us in the mystery of a child delivered through Mary. Beloved of God, God delivers through his faithful servants!

Special Music *O Come, O Come Immanuel*

Samantha Claassen

Children's Moments

Bonita Schroeder

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

* Advent Hymn No. 209 *Oh, how joyfully*

Sermon

Pastor Peter

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 deliver.

Many: Lord, make us ready. Deliver us from sin and hopelessness. We celebrate your light coming into our darkness.

North: We remember the hope that Jesus brings to all people in all times and places.

All: Rejoice! God delivers!

South: We remember the peace God gives, a flickering candle that the night cannot understand or extinguish.

All: Rejoice! God delivers!

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.

All: Rejoice! God delivers!

**South: We look for signs in the heavens and God sends a baby.
God remembers. God's saving mercy breaks through time and
space to include even us.**

Many: Rejoice! God delivers!

All: Rejoice! God delivers!

* **Hymn of Response No. 197** *Angels we have heard on high*

Offering Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Prayers of the People

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 318** *Joy to the world*

* **Benediction** Micah 5:4-5a

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

Western District Conference: Give thanks for the gift of Immanuel – God with us.

Mennonite Mission Network: As college students and participants in Mennonite Voluntary Service and other short-term mission programs travel home for the holidays, pray for safety and that their time with family and friends will provide the rejuvenation necessary for them to joyfully return to complete their academic years and their service terms.

Church Events

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir practice



Christmas Eve - Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program at Grace Hill. *Silent Was the Night* will be presented by the children and the choir. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the service. Our special Christmas Eve offering will be divided between Health Ministries Clinic and Community Playschool. Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

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.

Announcements

Please get bulletin announcements for next Sunday's bulletin to Debbie Claassen by Tuesday, December 22. Thank you!

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.

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: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Caleb Regehr and Rob Schunn

Preaching Next Sunday: Lessons in Carols

Keyboard Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$7,839.00

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

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

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org