

Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 21, 2008

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Chorister: Joel Linscheid

Worship Leader: Curtiss Regehr

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Indwelling Face of God

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
That we may be saved. Psalm 80:3, 7, 19*

Although the strong and proud appear to be in control, God overshadows us and lifts up the lowly. Like Mary, we open ourselves to God's face being born within us.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! 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.

* **Hymn No. 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*
Lighting of the God Candle

* **Call to Worship** 2 Samuel 7:1-11 and Luke 1:26-38

Leader: God is looking for a house, a place to move into,
a place to reside.

People: And not just any home. Not just any temple.

Leader: God is interested in flesh-and-blood houses,
bodies to receive God's presence.

**People: Not perfect bodies, but willing bodies,
ready to welcome the gift of Divine life.**

Leader: The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

**People: The most High desires us as a house,
a place to move into, a place to reside.**

All: For nothing is impossible with God. Thanks be to God.

* **Invocation**

* **Hymn No. 202** *The virgin Mary had a baby boy*
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle by
Brad, Suzy, and Lucy Burch

Offering Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Prayers of the Congregation

Leader: Restoring God, we bring to you our concerns

Sharing of concerns by the congregation

Leader: Our broken relationships need mending -
With neighbors across the street and around the world.
Our bodies need healing, and our minds need restoring.
Our communities need fresh vision and new hope.
We long for all people to rebuild the ancient ruins.
To create communities of justice and peace.
Restoring God, we look to you as our architect,
Our master builder.

Restoring God, we bring to you our joys.

Sharing of praise and thanksgiving by the congregation

Leader: Our homes can be filled with laughter and love.
Our communities can be repaired and thrive.
Wars can cease and peace can reign.
Although we have cried many tears
– for ourselves, for our friends.
And for those we hear about in the news,
You promise to bring us all home with shouts of joy. Amen.

Children's Moments

Kristine Goossen

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

Old Testament Reading Luke 1:26-38 David Janzen

Meditation Pastor Katherine

Choral Anthem *For Unto Us A Child Is Born* G.F. Handel
Adult Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 1:47-55 Curtis Toews

Meditation *Check out the Magnificat Headlines* Pastor Jim
A Poor Servant is Blessed - Pride and Greed Plummet
Faithfulness to be Honored

* **Hymn of Response No. 210** *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

* **Benediction** Pastor Katherine

* **Benediction Hymn No. 197** *Angels we have heard on high*

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

The Pastor Search committee met this week with Dorothy Nickel Friesen to receive general instruction and information. Over the next month or so a variety of paperwork will need to be completed. Congregational input will be requested in early January. Please let Diana Schunn or one of the search committee members know if you have questions. Members of the Search Committee are Lisa Harms, Merrill Harms, Brian Hilgenfeld, Diana Schunn and Ken Wiebe.

Western District Conference: Pray for your congregation as it prepares to welcome the Prince of Peace in new ways.

Mennonite Mission Network: Please pray for the three Mennonite churches in Hong Kong as next Sunday they consider their decision to join together as one church, strengthening their church ministry and more effectively using resources.

Church Events

Today at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. The Youth group is in charge.



Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program will be presented by our youth and junior department. Our special Christmas Eve offering will be divided between Health Ministries Clinic and Community Playschool. A time of refreshments will follow the program. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to this very special evening in the life of our church. All are welcome!

Sunday, January 4 Farewell for Pastor Jim and Barb – There will be a time of sharing during the worship service and will be no Sunday School classes that morning. Carry-in meal at noon. Bread will be furnished. Bring Pastor Jim's favorite dishes.

Announcements

Please get bulletin announcements for next Sunday's bulletin to Debbie Claassen by Tuesday, December 23. Thank you!

The elective Sunday school class with Pastor Jim is complete. Another elective class will begin on January 11 with Pastor Katherine.

Quilters – There will be no quilting December 22 or 29. Quilting will resume on January 5.

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.

Give the Gift of Camp! Camp Mennoscah always needs funds for scholarships. Please consider donating to the Camp Mennoscah scholarship fund as part of your celebration of Good News to all people this Christmas. Donations should be marked for the scholarship fund. For more information about how to help send a child to Camp Mennoscah, contact us at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org.

Special Music Next Sunday: Emma Hilgenfeld
Keyboard Next Sunday: Jana Harms

Nursery This Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen
Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier
Ushers Next Sunday: Ben Lichti and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$3,942.25
Harvest of Love Offering: \$256.00
Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org