



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 24, 2017

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

Advent 2017

Advent 4 - “Let it Be Now”

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

* Song “Love Came Down at Christmas” HWB 208

Gathering

Leader: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

All: The LORD has risen upon us and his glory has appeared among us.

Leader: Come to the light, the brightness of God’s new world.

All: Praise be to the LORD. Your faithfulness and steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: You are our light, our salvation, and our strength.

All: Yes! Let our light shine now; let it shine forever!

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Isaiah 60:1-2 Jesse Hernandez

Prayer of Confession: All

O God of blessing and joy, your favor rests upon us, and our souls magnify you.

We sing of your steadfast love and proclaim your faithfulness.

We confess we often do not trust, walking in our own strength, and going our way.

We confess we are easily overcome by doubt, “How will we know?” and pondering, “How can this be?”

We confess we are afraid to claim and proclaim that nothing is impossible with you when your Holy Spirit comes upon us.

We confess our caution - hesitant to say, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

Forgive our dim faith, our cautious devotion, and our sinful lives.

Silence... Words of assurance

L: O God, Emmanuel, in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us in the manger at Bethlehem. You have given us life, and we are forever renewed. Amen.

* Song “What Child is This” HWB 215

Offering to God Western District Conference

Offertory

*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children’s Story “Woodworker’s Visit”

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Drama “Wisdom & Wonder”

* Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20

Sermon “The Good News of Today”

* Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful ” HWB 212

* Benediction

* Sending Hymn “Joy to the World” HWB 318

*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	Valerie Klaassen
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Song Leader	Penny Hiebert
Greeters	Adrian & Courtney Nethercot
Ushers	Josh Patterson & Rob Schunn
Nursery	Courtney Nethercot & Lily Hilgenfeld

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us give thanks for the ways Christ's presence is made visible through WDC congregations.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

Church Events



This evening 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. The prelude will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Nursery Next Sunday: Katherine Claassen

Greeters Next Sunday: Doug and Katherine Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care \$889.00

Offering Next Sunday: Harvey County Circle of Hope

Et Cetera

As Western District Conference concludes its 125th anniversary year, we invite members and friends of WDC to send in an extra gift of \$125 (or more!) to help WDC meet its 2017 budget (fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2018). Your contributions allow WDC to equip pastors, encourage church planters, resource congregations, energize ministries of peace, justice and evangelism, and connect to God's work in the wider church and world. Thank you for your generous support!

Many merry blessings of Christmas to all! Camp Mennoscah sends hope, joy, and peace to all this Christmas season. We have been thoroughly blessed by your gifts and prayers throughout the year and pray you have been blessed by Camp Mennoscah's ministry, too. Check out our webpage at campmennoscah.org or our Facebook page to see the many things you have made possible. Thank you for sharing generously with the many campers and people who experience God's love and creation at Camp Mennoscah!

Hey, all you wannabe summer staffers! The online application form is ready for you. Go to campmennoscah.org/application/ for further information. Now is a great time to fill it out! Think of it as a Christmas present to yourself. Summer staff have a summer full of opportunities to share their faith and influence youth. We'll be recruiting at Mennonite colleges in February and will start filling positions at that time. Still pondering? Call 620-297-3290 and talk to Olivia for more details.

In February 2018, The Mennonite magazine will celebrate its 20th anniversary in its current form as the official publication of Mennonite Church USA and we want to hear from you. Send us your memories of The Mennonite: reflections on your favorite stories, authors that have been important or reasons you've relied on this publication. You can send your short reflections (200 words or less) to Editor@TheMennonite.org. Responses received by Jan. 1 may be included in the February 2018 issue of the magazine.

The Mennonite, Inc. welcomes your original submissions and contributions for our March 2018 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on Spiritual resilience. Submissions are due by January 20 to Editor@TheMennonite.org. You can read a full description of the March 2018 theme here: <https://themennonite.org/march-2018-call-submissions-spiritual-resilience/>

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale announcements:

- Looking for someone to haul a small John Deere Tractor from Bakersfield, CA to Goessel, KS for the KS MCC Sale. Contact, Jerry Toews, 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.
- WANTED: Good cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, farm machinery, etc. to donate to the KS MCC Sale - new to antique. If you are thinking of getting a new car, consider donating your trade-in to the MCC Sale as a tax deductible donation. Contact Jerry Toews for more info at 620-367-8257 or jtoews62@gmail.com.

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