



Grace Hill Mennonite Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candles 1-3

- 1 – Isaiah 40:1-2 “Comfort...” Isabella Lehman
- 2 – Isaiah 40:3-5 “Glory revealed...” Seren Harms
- 3 – Isaiah 40 6-8 “What shall I cry...” Hadynn Lanzrath

* “Joy to the World” HWB 318

“Oh, How Joyfully” HWB 209

Offering to God Western District Conference

Offertory

* *Doxology* (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

Sung response – “O come, let us adore him...”

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

PROCLAMATION

“The Friendly Beasts” Courtney Nethercot

History of the Song

Children’s Time

“The Friendly Beasts” (words on the back of the bulletin)

Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)

God who came into the world in the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem and will come again: send now your Holy Spirit to prepare the Advent of your Word in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Scripture Reading Revelation 21:1-5a

“Saviour of the Nations Come” Curtiss Regehr

Sermon “The Coming End of Four Things”

RESPONSE

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (vs. 1-3) HWB 195

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle
 Isaiah 40:9-10 – “Good news...”

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (vs. 4-5) HWB 195

SENDING FORTH

* Benediction

* “Joy to the World” (vs. 1) HWB 318

Postlude

* Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

Pastor: Weldon Martens Scripture Reader: Doug Claassen

Piano: Ellen Youngman Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Usher: Curt Regehr

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Give thanks for all WDC congregations as they celebrate the birth of Jesus and share the good news of God’s will for peace on earth.

Mennonite Mission Network: As we enter the week of Christmas and remember Jesus' birth, millennia ago, in a land crushed by oppression, join Mennonite Mission Network in looking for the surprising ways that the Prince of Peace is being born in our own fractured communities today. Let us continue to pray and act in ways that build peace.

Church Events



Tuesday at 6:00 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.

February 2 at 12:45 p.m. Annual Business Meeting

March 2 Pastor Weldon & Jenny's farewell

Announcements

Collecting Non-perishable Food Items! During Advent, non-perishable food items will be collected during the worship service by the children for area food banks. Thank you for your donations! - The Missions Council

Offering Next Sunday: Camp MennoScah Retreat Center

The Friendly Beasts

Jesus our brother kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude.
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother kind and good.

I said the donkey, shaggy and brown, I carried his mother up hill and down.
I carried her safely to Bethlehem Town, I said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

I said the cow all white and red, I gave him my manger for a bed;
I gave him my hay to pillow his head, I said the cow all white and red.

I said the sheep with the curly horn, I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn, I said the sheep with the curly horn.

I said the camel yellow and black, over the desert upon my back,
I brought him a gift from the wise man's pack. I said the camel, yellow and black.

I said the dove from the rafters high, I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry.
We cooed him to sleep my mate and I. I said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus, every beast by some good spell, in the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel, the gift he gave Emmanuel.

Et Cetera

All are invited to Night In The Barn: A Living Nativity presented by Tabor Mennonite Church Youth on December 22 from 5-7pm at Patchwork Farms. Experience the Christmas story with the characters, animals, lights and sounds. The walking tour lasts about 20 mins. Donations are accepted. Drinks and snack will be provided. Questions? Call 620-345-6867. Patchwork Farms is located at 372 E 70th, Newton, KS. 6 Miles North of Newton on K-15 then 3/4 mile East.

Join MC USA in imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and our planet by participating in an online book study of the compelling and timely book, "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. Drawing from Scripture, science, Indigenous wisdom, and personal stories, the authors invite us to open our hearts and our culture to deep, Spirit-led transformation. An interactive Zoom meeting every Thursday, beginning on January 16 through February 13, 2025. [Register here.](#)

New Bluestem U lifelong learning courses for winter and spring 2025 are now open for registration. Courses are available for individuals age 55 and better. This semester's offerings include STEAM, theatre, astronomy, bird watching and a free author's series. See more information and registration at bluestemu.org. Bluestem U is a lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities in partnership with Bethel College and Hesston College.

Hesston College Music Department will host a program called Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival on Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 pm, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The Hymn Festival coincides with the 500th anniversary of the first Anabaptist adult baptisms that took place in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525. This event will also celebrate the release of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. The public is invited to this community wide celebration that involves singers from surrounding churches, as well as audience participation in the singing of hymns, led by Russell Adrian and Karen Unruh. The core of the program will be historical narrative by Ken Rodgers tracing important hymns and texts throughout the past five centuries.

Mennonite Disaster Service December edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares thoughts and inspiration from a deer stand, and celebrate with family in West Virginia who will be home for Christmas, thanks to MDS volunteers, plus get all the details for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/49FzaWp>

If you missed the Camp Mennoscah first camper story from the summer staff this past summer, you can find it on the [Camp Mennoscah website](#). These stories tell of the faith formation and relationship building--and fun!--that happens. Keep your eyes out for the next story! (Feeling led to give a gift or volunteer? [Give online](#) or contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for assistance.)

WDC Staff position opening: Western District Conference seeks a half-time Program Director for WDC's Kids Meet Christ (KMC) worship and faith formation initiative, beginning February 1, 2025. This program is made possible through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative, designed to help congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The KMC Program Director will serve as a member of the WDC staff, collaborating with other staff and the Resource Commission to implement the KMC initiative over the 5-year grant period. For position description and application form, see <https://mennowdc.org/employment/>. Interested applicants please submit application form and letter of interest to the Conference Minister at heidirk@mennowdc.org.

Western District Conference invites you to visit their website at <https://mennowdc.org/> to read the latest news, stories and announcements.

Mennonite Church USA Subscribe to PeaceMail to receive MC USA's blogs, news and resources in one weekly email. Subscribe to PeaceMail here: mennoniteusa.org/peacemail

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org
Church address: 10218 SE 12th, Whitewater, Kansas 67154