



*Advent 3*

Hope Mennonite Church  
December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent  
9:30 am Worship

Gathering to Worship

*As we gather for worship, please silence all electronic devices.  
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Prayer

\*Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who has come to set the chosen people free.

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Savior  
from the house of David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old to save us  
from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us;

**to show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember the holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship without fear, holy and righteous  
in the Lord's sight, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow  
of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Lighting the Advent Candle  
"Longing for Light" (verse 3)

Ron & Linda Headings  
#715

\*Songs of Gathering

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"  
"Hope Is a Candle"

#210  
#211

## Hearing God's Word

Time with the children		Randy Quinn
"Coventry Lullaby" arr. Earlene Rentz		Choir
"Still, Still, Still" arr. Norma Luboff		
Scripture reading		Luke 1:5-13, 57-80
Message	"Zechariah's Love"	Randy Quinn

## Responding to God's Word

*"Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee"		#215
The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		
"Jazz Gloria" by Natalie Sleeth		Choir
Greeting our Guests (Please pass the attendance pads)		
Seeing and Seeking God		
Work of the Church		
Sharing our Praises and Concerns		
Prayers of God's People		

## Sending

*"O Holy Night" arr. Mac Huff		Choir
*Benediction		
Postlude		

\* \* \* \* \*

\*Please stand if you are able

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us today in person or on Zoom. During Advent this year, we have been moving from darkness toward the coming light of Christ. Each week the bulletin cover reveals an increasing amount of light. In a world where darkness seems prevalent, we are learning to love the way Jesus did, uncovering and revealing his light to the world.

### Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church  
868 N. Maize Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212

phone 722-0903  
fax 722-5173  
[www.hopemennonite.org](http://www.hopemennonite.org)

#### Interim Pastor

Randy Quinn 779-4329 [pastor@hopemennonite.org](mailto:pastor@hopemennonite.org)

#### Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807 [secretary@hopemennonite.org](mailto:secretary@hopemennonite.org)  
Kim Voth 721-1250 [secretary@hopemennonite.org](mailto:secretary@hopemennonite.org)

#### Church Office Hours

Randy Tuesday-Wednesday 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
Monday, Thursday – work from homes  
Cynthia Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-1:30 pm  
Kim Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Staff meeting Tuesday 9:30 am

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link at [hopemennonite.org](http://hopemennonite.org) and “like” Hope Mennonite Church to see pictures & updates on church life.

#### First Fruits Giving

Giving the first and best of what we are given.

#### December 10

Attendance- 119 (Hope 111; Zoom-8)  
Offering last Sunday \$9,283 Year to date - \$222,860  
Spending plan year to date - \$250,000

Hope offers an electronic option of giving through **Tithely**.  
Contact the church office for instructions.

***Our Purpose:*** *As an Anabaptist community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, Hope Mennonite Church is calling and making disciples who bring Christ's love and peace to our world*

#### **Hope Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome and Inclusion**

We believe all people are created in God's image and we covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we seek to follow Jesus. We gather around God's table as an open and affirming congregation, embracing all people to full participation in the life and ministry of our church regardless of age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, gender identity, citizenship, ability, ethnicity, or any other factor subject to discrimination or exclusion in our world. We recognize and give thanks for the diverse opinions among us and are united as we strive to model a community of faith offering justice, peace, love, and compassion in the name of Christ.

## Worship Participants

Worship leader: Renetta Gooden

Musicians: Laurie Regehr, Galen Fast, Eldon Chlumsky, Leon Greaser, Rod Kremer – Hopeful Blues

Song leader & choir director: Trae Gehring

Scripture Reader: Lee Schmucker

Worship tech: Randy Pinkerton

Zoom host: Kendal & Marjie Warkentine

## Upcoming Worship Services

December 21 6:30 pm Longest Night service

December 24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK (17-23)

Thursday -6:30 Longest Night service



\*Preschool: Room 8/9 downstairs

\*Elementary: Room 2 downstairs

\*Middle School: Room 7 downstairs

\*Adult Sunday School – Have you ever imagined what the homes of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John might have looked like at Christmas? We will look at the imagined homes of the four Gospel writers for a unique celebration of Christ's birth, life, and sacrifice. We will reflect on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Christ or the incarnation offered by each Gospel writer and consider how their homes might have looked at Christmas based on what they documented (or not) about Christ's birth. The study will be led by Laurie Regehr.

Coffee preparation next Sunday- no coffee today

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 24-30)

Sunday -6:30 pm Christmas Eve service



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Greg & Leah Shelly-Unruh

Next Sunday: Donovan & Laurie Regehr

December 31: Shelby & Tyler Kaufman

Guests & visitors last Sunday: 15 relatives for the children/youth Christmas presentation

Spending plan update: 2023 spending plan \$260,000; to date, \$222,860; still needed \$37,140 with 3 Sundays left in the year.

You are invited to our Longest Night Service, Wednesday, **December 21**; a service designed to offer a place to honor the sense of loss many people feel at this time of the year. Taking place on the evening of the winter solstice, we will use the imagery of the long cold night and provide a place to ponder and reflect with others who are experiencing their own grief. The grief may be fresh, it may be old; it may stem from the death of a loved one or any other loss that makes you feel “out of synch” with those around you. The service will feature reflective music, scripture, a brief mediation, and the lighting of candles. Come alone or come with friends. All are welcome.

You are invited to our Christmas Eve service on **December 24**, 6:30 pm. It will be an interactive Lessons and Carols service with scripture readings & songs and ending with congregational candle lighting.

Sandwich Saturday 2024 – We begin another year of serving 80 sack lunches on the first Saturday of each month to those who are houseless. Please consider signing up to be the hands and feet of this mercy ministry, specifically on January 6. We also need 14 dozen cookies each month and you can sign up for that as well.

The WDC Israel Palestine Task Force invites you, your congregation, family, friends and allies to join Mennonite Action on Tuesday, **December 19**, for a public witness at Senator Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall’s offices in Wichita, KS to ask for a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel. We will meet at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, 655 S Lorraine ST, at 10:30 am to rehearse the actions which include prayer, singing and sharing bread with congressional staffers and each other. This is a somber event, and we encourage participants to wear black. RSVP at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/central-kansas-day-of-action>. Specific questions may be referred to Bob Atchison at 785-313-2292 or Ben Parker Sutter at 316-833-7225.

## Choir texts

### “Coventry Lullaby”

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child; by, by lully, lullay.  
Lullay, O lovely child.

O sisters too, how may we go, for to prepare this day.  
This poor youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

O rest in gentle slumber mild, O sleep, thou lovely child.  
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child; by, by lully, lullay.

### “Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

### “Jazz Gloria”

Gloria in excelsis Deo Gloria Alleuia  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Christ the Lord is born.

Lo, now He comes, the awaited Messiah,  
The babe who is born in a poor cattle stall.  
There 'mid the wisemen and shepherds adoring,  
He lies sweetly sleeping, the Saviour of all.

Tell the news through all the earth; Tidings of the Holy birth.  
Sent from God with Man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel.

Sunday School hiatus – There will be no Sunday School scheduled on December 24 or 31. Classes for all ages will resume on January 7.

Please look ahead and mark your calendars for Hope's next Family Promise hosting week. We will be hosting families from **December 31 through January 7**. There is still time to be trained if you haven't already been. Contact Marcus Loganbill for further information.

### Prayers for the wider church

... In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of creativity and joy celebrated in the diverse cultural and ethnic traditions of congregations across Western District Conference.

...Austin Roberts serves with Youth With A Mission in Northern Ireland. Pray that God will give him strength and wisdom to navigate ministry and doctoral research in organizational approaches to missions among young people.

...Pray for Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand, an organization that resources churches, individuals and groups who identify with Anabaptist traditions in these two countries