



Advent 3

Hope Mennonite Church
December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent
Anointing for Justice
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 Hopeful Blues

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship based on Isaiah 61:1

Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

Yours is the way of release and restoration.

May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.

May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.

You anoint us; we are yours.

We delight and rejoice in you.

Lighting the Advent Candles Ben, Grace, Simeon, Miles Parker Sutter

*Songs of Gathering

“How Many Times We Start Again” (vs 1-3) #553

“O Come, O Come, Immanuel (vs 1,3,4,5,7) #210

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Readings Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:16-21

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” #216

Message “Ode to Joy” Sara Dick

Responding to God's Word

*“Summoned by the God Who Made Us” #1

The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Once Upon a Time in Bethlehem

"Silent Night"

Kloie Boese, violin

Vicki Howard & Hailey Boese, piano duet

Narrators

Amelia Koop, Hudson Regehr

Mary

Zoya Koop

Joseph

Haydon Regehr

Angels & vocalists

Ellie Chlumsky, Logan Regehr

Vocalists

Amelia & Zoya Koop

Shepherds, sheep, cows

Holden Regehr, Hadley Weimer,

Tavian & Cruz Graber, Simeon Parker Sutter,

Camden Williams, Owen Chlumsky, Landon Regehr

Directors

Laurie Regehr, Ruthie Goering

Sending

*"We, Your People, Sing Your Praises"

#849

*Benediction

* * * * *

*Stand as you are able

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning in person or on Zoom. This Advent season we are invited to join biblical characters on a journey of persistently walking with God, being open to God's spirit, including the marginalized, and accepting the support of others as we prepare to welcome Christ anew into our hearts and our lives.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Renetta Gooden

Pianist: Ruthie Goering

Song leader: Steve Pankratz

Scripture reader: Barb Voth

Candle lighting readers: Connie Luty, Tavian Graber, Donna Heide

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

Worship tech: Michelle Jantz

Zoom host: Kendal & Marjie Warkentine

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church
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Interim Pastor

Sara Dick (316) 821-0577 pastor@hopemennonite.org

Secretaries

Cynthia Loganbill 721-8807 secretary@hopemennonite.org

Kim Voth 721-1250 secretary@hopemennonite.org

Church Office Hours

Sara Dick This week: Tuesday 9-2 pm; Thursday 9-4 pm

Cynthia Monday-Thursday 9 -1:30 pm

Kim Friday 9-1 pm

Staff meeting Tuesday 9:30 am

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link at 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 8

Attendance 123 (Hope 103; zoom 10)

Offering last Sunday - \$6,192

Year to date \$215,472

Spending plan commitment \$260,000

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.

Upcoming Worship Services

December 21	6:30 pm The Longest Night service
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas choir
December 29	First Sunday of Christmas

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (December 15-21)

Today	-noon; reserved event in the library
Wednesday	-7:00 pm choir
Saturday	-6:30 pm Longest Night Service

Coffee preparation next Sunday – TBA



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Greg & Leah Shelly-Unruh

Next Sunday: Kevin & Taylor Sechrist

December 29: Eldon & Annette Chlumsky



*Preschool: Room 8/9 downstairs

*Elementary: Room 2 downstairs

*Middle School: Room 7 downstairs

*Adults in the sanctuary: At Christmas, among the lights, trees, and wreaths, many homes and churches feature a Nativity scene as a central part of the decor. The Nativity is intended to re-create the scene of Jesus's birth with figures representing those who were most likely in attendance or arrived sometime thereafter. These scenes have become such a familiar part of the celebration that most of us can't think of the event without picturing the humble stable, baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wisemen (who very likely arrived quite a bit later), and the animals. But have you ever wondered why these particular people were on the guest list? Why scare the shepherds out on a dark hillside? Have you ever considered Herod's part in the Christmas story? Why did foreign kings search for the child Jesus? As we will see the unlikely shepherds, magi, and even King Herod can teach us important lessons about who we are as children of God and followers of Jesus. Laurie Regehr will lead our Advent study on Dec 15, and 22.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 22-28)

Tuesday	-6:30 pm Christmas Eve service
Friday	-3 pm Reserved event

Guests & visitors last Sunday: Neil & Ellen Lehman; Wally & Betsy Wallace; Ed Deiner (zoom); Samuel Agoitia (zoom)

Pastor Sara will be on vacation December 25 -January 1. She'll be back in the office on January 2. If you have any pastoral concerns, please contact a deacon or the church office.

There are many ways to support Family Promise in addition to volunteering during our hosting weeks. There are numerous Christmas gift ideas for newborns through teens, posted on the Witness and Outreach bulletin board. You may put items in the Family Promise basket under the bulletin board or give them to Marcus who will be happy to deliver them to the dayhouse.

All are welcome to attend a memorial service to honor our unhoused Wichita neighbors who passed away this year on Wednesday, **December 18**, at 6:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 402 N Topeka. This will be a quiet evening to gather to reflect on lives lived at the margins — lives often unseen, voices often unheard. Hope is involved with Wichita's unhoused neighbors through Family Promise and Justice Together. This is another opportunity to heed His call to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every human being as we await the birth of the Christ Child during this Advent.

Vision Council is thrilled to announce the formation of the **Creation Care Committee**, a new initiative dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability within our church community. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Michelle Jantz at moderator@hopemennonite.org by January 6.

Sanctuary Greeters As shared at the congregational meeting, all active members and regular attendees will be scheduled to serve in this new ministry, unless you wish to opt out by contacting the church office. Thank in advance for supporting a welcoming and hospitable environment to our worship experience.

Prayers for the Wider Church:

...Pray for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers who are part of Western District Conference congregations and their communities, that they would experience the presence of Christ through the gifts of hospitality and sharing together.

... For the past two years, Joseph and Rachel Givens, and their sons, have welcomed families that are fleeing oppression to the love and warmth of Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France. Pray for God's strength and love to provide them with the energy to continue this demanding ministry.

... The Kekchi Mennonite Church of Guatemala has about 125 congregations, divided into six regions. Pray for the leaders, and pray, especially, for Maria Chub and Maria Santos Tiul, as they travel to all the regions to provide pastoral care for church's women.

Sharing Prayers & Praise

December 8, 2024

Work of the Church

- * Marcus Loganbill thanked all of those who worked out at Camp Mennoscah on November 24. There is still a need for volunteers and contributions during this difficult financial time. He also thanked all of the volunteers who helped with Family Promise this past week. Our next hosting week is March 9-16. In addition, Hope is helping out on December 16 with a church that is hosting two weeks back-to-back.