



Advent 4

Hope Mennonite Church
December 22, 2024
Embodying God's Spirit
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

The Lord is with us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Can you conceive it? Don't say, "It's all relative."

It's real! It's right now! It's right here!

Come young, come old. Let us worship in the name of Jesus,
for nothing will be impossible with God!

Lighting the Advent Candles

Adam Kroeker

*Songs of Gathering

"How Many Times We Start Again" (vs 1-4)

#553

"With Mary Sing Magnificat"

#208

Hearing God's Word

Time with the Children

Annette & Eldon Chlumsky

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-49

"Mary Did You Know" Pentatonix

Choir

Scripture reading

Psalms 113

"Christmas Medley"

Trombone trio

"Somewhere in My Memory" Arr. Mark Hayes

Choir

"Grown Up Christmas List" Arr. Teena Chinn

"Night Long Awaited"

Quartet & congregation

#242

Responding to God's Word

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"

#255

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

Sending

*"My Soul Cries Out"

#412

*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. Today we join together on the fourth Sunday of Advent and lift our voices together in praise and song.

Worship Participants

Worship leader: Renetta Gooden

Pianist: Amy Bellar

Song leader & choir director: Trae Gehring

Scripture reader: Lori Miller

Candle lighting readers: Renetta Gooden, Nate Kroeker

Trombonists: Nate & Adam Kroeker, Trae Gehring

Quartet: Bethany Gipson, Natalie Hand, Lowell Birkey, Trae Gehring

Worship tech: Michelle Jantz

Zoom host: Brenda Glanzer Lilliston

Upcoming Worship Services

December 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 29 First Sunday of Christmas

January 5 Epiphany

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church
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Wichita, KS 67212

phone 722-0903
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www.hopemennonite.org

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 9-1pm; next week - vacation

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 15

Attendance 123-8 (Hope 119; zoom 9)

Offering last Sunday - \$21,205

Year to date \$236,678

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.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK (December 22-28)

Tuesday -6:30 pm Christmas Eve service

Friday -3 pm Reserved event

Coffee preparation next Sunday – Joanna Pinkerton



NURSERY (birth through age 4)

Today: Kevin & Taylor Sechrist

Next Sunday: Eldon & Annette Chlumsky

January 5: Donovan & Laurie Regehr



*Preschool: Room 8/9 downstairs

*Elementary: Room 2 downstairs

*Middle School: Room 7 downstairs

*Adults in the sanctuary: At Christmas, many homes and churches feature a Nativity scene as a central part of the décor and 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? As we will see the unlikely shepherds, magi, and even King Herod can teach us important lessons. Laurie Regehr concludes today.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (December 29-January 4)

Saturday -Sandwich Saturday

Guests & visitors last Sunday: Cleo Koop; Bonnie Kaufman; Mike & Connie Kaufman; Alex & Ashley Graber; Rod & Amy Kliewer; Orlan & Grace Koehn

There are Christmas greetings from Marvin & Jeannie Zehr and Randy & Ronda Quinn on the bulletin board.

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.

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.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is calling for volunteers to help host the 2025 MDS Annual Celebration February 14 – 15, 2025, at the Ridgepoint Church, 8000 W 21st St, in Wichita, KS. MDS is celebrating 75 years of disaster recovery work, which began right here in Kansas. Volunteers are needed to help with meals, welcome and hospitality, driving shuttle vans between hotels and church, and helping with meeting room preparation. Please contact Eldon or Annette Chlumsky for more details.

Prayers for the Wider Church:

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

...Participants in the Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure programs are preparing to celebrate Christmas with their supporting congregations and in their new communities. For some participants, this may be the first holiday during which they have been separated from their families. Pray that they may experience the meaning of Jesus' coming to this earth in a deeper way in their new contexts

...As we remember Jesus' birth, in a land crushed by oppression, let us look for the surprising ways that the Prince of Peace is born in our own fractured communities, and let us continue to pray and act in ways that build peace.

“Somewhere in My Memory”

Candles in the window, shadows painting the ceiling,
gazing at the fire glow, feeling that “gingerbread” feeling.
Precious moments, special people, happy faces I can see.

Somewhere in my memory Christmas joys all around me,
living in my memory, all of the music, all of the magic,
all of the family home here with me.

“Grown Up Christmas List”

Do you remember me? I sat upon your knee.
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies.
Well, I’m all grown-up now. Can you still help somehow?
I’m not a child, but my heart still can dream.
So here’s my lifelong wish, my grown-up Christmas list,
not for myself, but for a world in need.

No more lives torn apart, and wars would never start,
and time would heal all hearts.
Ev’ry one would have a friend, that right would always win,
and love would never end. This is my grown-up Christmas list.

As children, we believed the grandest sight to see
was something lovely wrapped beneath the tree.
Well heaven surely knows that packages and bows
can never heal a hurting human soul.

What is this illusion called “the innocence of youth?”
Maybe only in our blind belief can we ever find the truth.

There’d be no more lives torn apart, and wars would never start,
and time would heal all hearts.
Ev’ry one would have a friend, that right would always win,
and love would never end.
This is my grown-up Christmas list.
This is my only lifelong wish.
This is my grown-up Christmas list.