

Nov 30, 2008

“The Hidden Face of God”

“The sun will be darkened . . . then they will see the Son of Man coming . . . ”

-Mark 13:24, 26

Gathering to Worship

PRELUDE Deloris Schmidt
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *“Come thou long expected Jesus”* Olivia Duerksen
WELCOME Worship Leader, Carol Duerksen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, look around you.

The time is ripe for God’s coming.

**People: The earth is silent, the darkness is tangible,
our world is in upheaval, and God often seems hidden.**

Leader: People of God, stay alert.

The season of God’s coming has arrived.

**People: How will God be revealed? Will it be like a fire,
an earthquake, or a knock at the door?**

Leader: People of God, keep watch. God comes in places
and at times we least expect.

**People: Without God’s Presence, we wither and die.
We are blown away like a leaf in the wind.**

**All: Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Praising God

*SINGING OUR PRAISE *“Bless’d be the God of Israel”* No. 174

*INVOCATION

*SINGING OUR HOPE *“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”* No. 216

*GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *please pass the welcome pads*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS IN WORSHIP *Items for Relief Kits will be received*

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Come thou long expected Jesus”* Bill and Kellen Froese

CHILDREN’S STORY

Hearing God’s Word

HEARING THE OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 64:1-9* Corey Miller

CONFESSING

SONG *“O come, O come, Immanuel”* vv. 1-3 No. 172

*HEARING THE GOSPEL *Mark 13:24-37*

SONG *“O come, O come, Immanuel”* vv. 4-6 No. 172

SERMON *“A Silent, Active God”* Karen Andres

Responding to God's Word

ADVENT SONG	<i>"Let your face shine"</i>	Doug and Jude Krehbiel
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER		
*HYMN	<i>"Oh, how joyfully"</i>	No. 209
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE		

Today

As we prepare for this Advent Season, we are reminded that we have often been walking in the dark. When we wander in darkness and despair, God's face seems hidden from us. We cry out to God to restore us, to help keep us alert as we watch for God's face to once again shine among us.

May we be led by the Spirit of Christ this morning and may we see the light of God's love all around us. We are so glad you chose to worship with us.

Thank you to Dawson Duerksen for the bulletin cover picture.

On this first Sunday of Advent we will be receiving towels and fingernail clippers for Mennonite Central Committee relief kits during the worship service.

Today is also the last Sunday we will receive an offering for this fiscal year. Give Generously. Give Joyfully. Give as you feel lead.

This morning you were greeted by Art & Ruth Schmidt and Ben Schmidt. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pads.* Come back and join us again.

Childcare is provided by Nancy Miller in the nursery during worship.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone. All adult Sunday school classes will meet in the sanctuary following worship to discuss and debrief what we have learned this fall in the Practicing our Faith series.

On the table in the foyer are **Prayer Request Cards**. You are invited to fill one out if you have a request and return it to a pastor's box.

This Week

Wednesday, December 3

5:30 - 6:00p.m.—Reflecting on Advent. Meet in the library.

6:00 - 6:45p.m.—Supper for Everyone, cleanup after.

6:30 - 7:00p.m.—Sonbeams **6:30 - 7:15p.m.**—Children of Light

7:00 - 8:00p.m.—Faith Friends, TMYF, Spanish Class

7:15 - 8:15p.m.—Faith Adventure, Youth Explorers, Worship Team

8:00 - 9:00p.m.—Adult Choir.

Thursday, December 4

7:30 p.m.—Prayer/Envisioning Team meeting.

Next Sunday, December 7

9:30 a.m.—**NEXT SUNDAY** we will continue our Advent theme, "**Let Your Face Shine.**" The focus of the morning will be "*The Comforting Face of God.*" The texts are Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85, II Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8 and Corey will be preaching. We will be receiving bath soap (4 bars per kit, 4-5 oz, in wrappers), shampoo (13-24 oz. plastic bottle in a resealable plastic bag) and adhesive bandages (minimum 40 assorted) for relief kits during the worship service as well.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone.

Announcements

Reflecting on Advent: Make plans on attending a special two week series on Advent before supper on Wednesday nights on **December 3 and 10**. We will meet at **5:30pm** in the library. Bring your Bibles and come expecting to meet our Christ who has come to us.

Advent Offerings: Advent begins Nov. 30. While shopping for Christmas this year, plan to purchase supplies for Relief Kits for MCC. Shopping lists for these urgently needed supplies were in your mailboxes. There are extras on the table in the foyer.

Looking for a ministry to contribute to this Christmas--consider our local Tabor Food Pantry. Many people have come in for food this past year and continue to. If your family would like to donate a box of food, here are some suggestions: boxed cereal, hamburger helper dinners, peanut butter and jelly, jello, pudding, ketchup, spaghetti noodles and sauce, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, laundry detergent, shampoo and toilet paper. *For question talk to Nancy Miller & Phyllis Goertzen.*

The Mennonite Subscriptions: Our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* is renewing. Subscription forms were in your mailboxes. (additional forms are on the table in the foyer) Please fill out and return forms to the box in the foyer by Dec. 7. Group subscription rates are \$33. You are invited to make a contribution to help cover the cost. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church.

Worship Service CD's available: If you miss a worship service you may still listen to the service by purchasing a CD for \$1. See Lee Goertzen.

Opportunity to support Mennonite Heritage Museum: "Menno Brothers" pizza, tossed salad, cookies and beverages are on the menu for the Wednesday evening meal Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. This meal will be a fund-raiser for Mennonite Heritage Museum.

Camp Mennoscah: Thank you to the wonderful people who volunteered at Camp Mennoscah during the 2008 camping season. We are grateful for every bit of time and energy spent on our behalf, whether in prayer or working at the campgrounds in support of the Western District Conference/Camp Mennoscah camping ministry. Those volunteers from Tabor include: Keith Banman, Jill Brandt, Phyllis Goertzen, Maynard Knepp, Art and Ruth Schmidt, Carrie Unruh and Michael Unruh. —Olivia Bartel, director

Grapevine, an informal network of anyone interested in Christian Nurture and Education will have their next meeting on **Dec. 4, 7 p.m.** at the Bethel College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall, North Newton. Special guests will be Elsie Rempel, Director of Christian Education and Nurture for Mennonite Church Canada and Arlyn Friesen Epp, Manager of Mennonite Church Canada Resource Center, who will provide input on Praying in Many Ways, and we will explore different learning preferences (music, drumming, walking, art) in prayer. If you are a teacher, leader, pastor or parent, this is an awesome opportunity to fellowship, learn and grab ideas to use with your children, youth or adults. Questions? Contact Marlene Bogard, at 316-283-6300 or mbogard@mennowdc.org.

A service of worship and ordination for Pastor Gail Graber will be held in the Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to attend. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the service.

The Five Places of Christmas—Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Bethel College Administration Building on the Bethel College campus will be featured. The main floor, chapel and windows in the staircase will be decorated. Tasty holiday baked items will be available at the bake sale. Also, Administration Building ornaments, Bethel College stadium seats, cookbooks will be for sale. Shuttle service will be available leaving from the Fine Arts Center parking lot.

All are invited to celebrate with local illustrator Jesse Graber during his signing and release party on Sunday, Dec 7, from 2-4pm at Faith & Life Bookstore in Newton. Jesse illustrated three Project Play Books, released this week and written by Marlene Byrne of Niles, IL. The three books tell the adventures of the kids of Edgebrook neighborhood, while inspiring readers to play backyard games that use creativity, imagination, and organizational skills.

On the Bulletin Board

- * Letter from **Mission Partners** Joe and Anna Sawatzky, serving in South Africa.
- * **Hymns of Nature** CD from Mennonite Media now available. See details.
- * **Volunteers needed** to finish the Volunteer Center at the Hopi Mission School in Arizona. Information and work schedule is posted.
- * Interterm and Spring class schedule for **Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary**.

Peace Will Reign.

"For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem . . . They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
- The Prophet Isaiah, 2:3b-4.

Faithful Giving

Total 2008 Annual Budget	\$268,306.00
Faithful Giving through November 23	<u>\$249,988.84</u>
Balance	\$ 18,317.16

Today is the last Sunday in this fiscal year.

Giving needed TODAY to meet budget:

\$18,317.16

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" —II Corinthians 9:7