

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

**"Yes! Let it be!"**

December 24, 2017

**Musical preparation for worship**

Michael

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

L: Yes! The invitation to carry Light comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

**All: O God, you choose to dwell within us. You promise to move about with us until**

*we find our rest in you.*

L: Your call seems risky; saying yes takes away our breath.

**All: Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast love endure forever.**

L: You are our strength

**All: Yes! Let it be now.**

**Hymn SS#12 "Magnificat"**

Choir & Congregation

**Choir "We Shall Light a Thousand Candles"**

**Children's Time**

Randy Stoesz

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in his hand. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

**Announcements**

**Offering & Advent Giving Jar (for Mennonite Disaster Service--Puerto Rico)**

**Hymn #204 "Gloria"**

**Scripture** Luke 2:25-35

**Wisdom & Wonder**

**Sermon "The Weight"**

Bob Brown

**Hymn of response #189 "To us a Child of hope is born"**

**Passing the Friendship Register**

**Sermon responses, sharing of joys, and introduction of guests**

**Lighting of Advent Candles**

**Congregational prayer**

Shannon Dycus

**Closing hymn #212 "O come, all ye faithful"**

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

In lieu of applause, we encourage a hearty "AMEN."

**Co-pastors:** Bob Brown & Shannon Dycus

**Faith Formation Coordinator & Pastoral Intern:** Ben Tapper

**Trustees:** Gloria, Randy, Ralph

**Care Team:** Annette, Heidi, Ted, Linda, Robin, Mary, Kevin, Rachel, Ben

**Worship Leader:** Michael

**Song Leader:** Mary

**Choir Director:** Jana

**Choir Accompanist:** Priscilla

**Drama:** Cathy & Klaine

**Greeters:** Jim & Bob

**Ushers:** LuEtta & Delbert

**Worship Visuals:** Maggie, Carol, Emilie

**Ministers:** Each participant in the congregation

**Join us for fellowship following the worship service. Coffee and hot tea will be available during this time.**

**There are no Sunday school classes today and on December 31.**

**Today and Upcoming at FMC**

**Sunday, December 24:** Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

Cookies and punch following the service. Please bring plated cookies to share. Remember, no nuts, please.

**December 25-January 1:** The church office will be closed and there will not be a weekly e-mail.

**Sunday, January 14:** Faith in Action Sunday

**Birthdays**

Next Sunday, December 31, we will be opening up the sermon time for sharing. In light of our conversations about Mary during Advent, we wanted to make some space for reflection and sharing. Please consider these two questions for Sunday: (1) Do we know God's ideas? (2) How do we proceed when we don't?

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS - December 24, 2017**

- Pray for Sherry who was hospitalized this week with pneumonia and a light heart attack.
- Pray for Doug as he completes his work for Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. There is a card to sign for Doug.
- Pray for Lynn and Maurice and families. Maurice's father died Sunday, December 3. Lynn's brother-in-law, Tom May, passed away this week of lung cancer. Pray for comfort for all.
- Pray for James who was in an accident on November 5 and is continuing to have neck and back pain.
- Pray for neighbors of Leslie, Mohammed and NeNe and their five children, dealing with immigration issues.
- Pray for Erin who is struggling with severe anxiety. While there has been improvement, there are still concerns. Pray for both Erin and Mike as they work through this.
- Pray for Leslie as she continues to recover at home and receive therapy on a regular basis.

*Please note that all prayer requests should be given to one of the pastors by 9:00 a.m. Friday morning. For Sunday morning additions, please speak to the person doing the congregational prayer before worship.*

#### **Luke 2:25-35 (NRSV)**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

## ***First Mennonite Church***

A welcoming faith community committed to  
Making peace Seeking justice Serving as the hands, heart, and voice of Christ

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