

# FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 19, 2010

Advent 4: An Unexpected Hour

## Prelude

\*Hymns: “Comfort, comfort, O my people” #176 HWB  
“I will come to you in the silence” (hymnal pocket; vv. 1-3)

## Silence / Lighting the Advent Candles

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel! Show us your face!

**People: Stir up your might, O God: shine forth!**

**Let your face shine, that we may be delivered.**

L: Ask a sign of the Lord your God;

Let it be deep as the grave or high as the heavens.

**P: The Lord gives us a sign. Look, the young woman bears a child,  
And calls him Emmanuel, God with us.**

L: He is declared to be the Son of God with power  
according to the spirit of holiness.

*All: He is our Lord, through whom we have received grace.*

*He has sent us among all outsiders.*

## Prayer

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Children’s gathering song:** “Come and see” #20 HWB

**Children’s cantata:** “A night for dancing” by Hal Hopson

**Song:** “Away in a manger” ~ preschoolers

**Offering and Choral Offertory:** “Shepherd’s Echo Carol”

Neil Okerlund, director

**New Testament Reading:** Romans 1:1-7

**Sermon:** “God’s gift to the world”

**Testimony of inclusion**

**Silence** “Prayer & Meditation on Psalm 103” by Marybeth Luing

## Sharing our Joys and Concerns

*Leader: We pray (give thanks) to the Holy One,*

*People: Hear our prayer.*

## Congregational Prayer

Our Father/Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. *(continued next page)*

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HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey ES: Everflowing Streams

*\*Please stand if you are able*

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. AMEN

**Announcements** (please give in writing to worship leader)

## Introduction of guests

\***Sending hymn:** “I am the light of the world” #33 ES (vv. 1-3)

\***Benediction**

\***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- **Fellowship time/Cookie social, 11:10**

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**TODAY:** 4: See the sign! (Romans 1:1-7)

**Worship Leader:** Bob Mack

**Sermon:** Mike Lillie

**Song Leader:** Pierre Gingerich-Boberg

**Piano:** Cathy Smetana

**Reader:** Aryn Baxter

**Flute:** Jennifer Wandersee

**Ushers:** Rachel Hoskins & Barb Beers

**Nursery:** Gregg Richardson & Scott Neal

**Fellowship time:** Kathleen Harder, Neil Okerlund, the Siggelkows

*We welcome Mike Lillie to preach today. Mike was recently licensed for ministry by Central Plains Mennonite Conference. He is associate pastor of Jesus In The City Fellowship, an inner-city church dedicated to serving adults in substance abuse recovery. A theology student at Bethel Seminary, Mike is in the process of starting Peace for The City, a ministry dedicated to peacemaking, forgiveness and conflict transformation. He is married to Molly who is finishing a Masters in Social Work at Augsburg.*

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Christmas – Weep & Rejoice (Matthew 2:13-23)

**Worship Leader:** Bob Mack

**Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song Leader:** Hermann Weinlick

**Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Ushers:** Mike & Paula Okerstrom

**Nursery:** 2 volunteers needed

**Snow shoveling:** Darrell Martin

**Fellowship:** 2 volunteers needed

*Note: there will be no Christian Education classes next Sunday. Classes resume January 2.*

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*A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.*

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**Faith Mennonite Church**  
**Pastor: Joetta Schlabach**  
**Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund**  
**Deacons: Aryn Baxter, Kami Blackwell Kinney**  
**Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick**

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**FMC OFFICE HOURS:** Dec 20-24

**Pastor:** Mon 1-5; Wed & Thurs 10-4; Tuesday is a study day. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Mon. and Wed. evening from 7- 8:30 p.m.

**Ministry Staff Person:** Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.

**Office Assistant,** Julie Cross: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:**  
[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org). Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

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**December 5: Attendance:** 109      **Offering:** \$2173

**December 14:** *Service canceled due to weather*

*Update from the Treasurer: Due to generous giving during the month of November, our year-to-date income now matches expenses and we should end the year with a positive balance. Thank you to everyone for your dedicated giving this year.*

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Although Faith Mennonite Church does not have any services planned for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, we encourage you to attend one of the many worship services that will be offered throughout the cities. Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 725 25<sup>th</sup> St. E, will have a service of carols and storytelling at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve to which all are welcome.

### **Church Meetings and Events**

December 21 – Lectionary discussion (Isa 60:1-6; Matt 2:1-12), 8:30 a.m., Trotter's, corner of Cleveland and Marshall, SP

December 28 – Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq and Other Child Victims of War: "Out of the Darkness; Into the Light," 6:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church

January 9 – All church potluck, noon

January 9 – Interfaith immigration witness, Ramsey Co. Detention Center, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,

**All: *Thanks be to God.***

## **A Night for Dancing** by Hal Hopson

Performed by the primary education classes

Anna Gambucci, director      Sandra Westby, accompanist

### **Part 1: The Journey to Bethlehem**

Shepherds: Joy Zabriskie and Sophia Gambucci

### **Part 2: Adoration of the Animals**

I: The greeting (Joseph – Sam Semanchin Jones, shepherds and chorus)

II: Mary's lullaby (Mary – Sophia Harder Kouay)

III: Carol of the Animals (kindergarten and first graders & chorus)

### **Part 3: Spreading the Good News**

Angels – Hannah Dirks, Hannah Okerstrom, & chorus

*Thank you to William and Matthew Blackwell Kinney who coordinated the set; Ry & Marcia Siggelkow for coordinating the preschooler's singing; and Shelly Hendricks for assisting with costumes.*

## **Announcements**

In preparation **for our church's 50th anniversary celebration, we plan to make a quilt** for the front of the sanctuary. We'd like church wide participation in this project. Early January, there will be a gathering to share information and plans. Details coming but start thinking about what you wish to contribute. *Arlene Geissinger and Sandra Westby*

**Save the Date for Spring MDS Trip:** Years after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, there is still a surprising amount of rebuilding to be done. The tentative date for our spring trip to help Mennonite Disaster Service with this is **April 3-8**. We do not yet know whether we will be in New Orleans or a different city. Transportation will be decided by the group that goes. We need to know whether we have enough people from Faith, or whether we should open the trip to other congregations. Please contact Melissa Hochstetler if you are interested.

**Registration for Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) June 22-26, 2011 and September 12-16, 2011 workshops are now open.** Professional continuing education and scholarships are available. For information contact Donna Minter. If your professional or community group would like to learn about STAR, please contact Donna about scheduling a free STAR presentation.