





Hutterthal  
**Mennonite  
Church**

Christ-centered—Living, Relating, Serving

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## **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**January 5, 2014**

**Prelude:** HWB no. 220,

*Worship the Lord in the Beauty*

**Silence**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come as fellow heirs of the living God!

**P: Let us awake to the marvel that in Christ we are one.**

L: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in our diversity!

**P: Our hearts thrill and rejoice**

***ALL: as we open wide the house of the Lord!***

**Thematic Opening Hymn:** HWB no. 233,

*Joyful Is the Dark*

**Dramatic Reading**

**Confession & Resting in the Light of the Advent Wreath**

**Scripture Reading:**

Isaiah 60: 1-6 (Pew Bible p. 390)

**Litany of the Advent Wreath**

L: Lift up your eyes and look. There is no partiality in Christ. How might we let all people in on this mystery?

***Silence***

L: Let us confess our unwillingness to share Christ with those of other nations, tribes, races, families, social classes, and denominations.

***Silent Confession***

L: The Advent Wreath reminds us that our Light has come.

**P: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness:**

***ALL: the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!***

**Children's Time:**

Whoever You Are

**Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 2: 1-12 (Pew Bible p. 509)

## Silent Meditation

## Sharing Time

### Pastoral Prayer

**Hymn:** HWB no. 218,

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

**Message:**

In Diversity

**Response Action:**

Communion

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: We gather before this table recognizing that Jesus did not come for *a* people, but for *all* people. We gather as one body and we acknowledge the mystery of God's dwelling among us as we partake of one loaf and share this common cup – signs for us of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who was born into the poverty of a stable and was adored by the affluent magi bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and lowly shepherds who first proclaimed Him. It is this One – Immanuel – who now invites us to come and dine, to be filled with all the fullness of God, and to proclaim His Kingdom that the house of the Lord may be established forever and forever. Amen.

## Prayer

### Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

L: On the night in which Jesus, the Light of the world, gave Himself for us, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat this all of you. This is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

**P: The bread which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ – one body, broken for all, that we, in all our diversity, might be His body in the world.**

L: And, on the same night, after the supper had ended, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, drink from this all of you. This is the blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

**P: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ, which cleanses us from all unrighteousness and allows us to know the joy of relationship both with God and with one another.**

L: So we can proclaim the mystery of God's dwelling in Christ:

**ALL: *That Christ has died, that Christ is risen, and that Christ will come again.***

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer**

### **Time of Offering**

#### **Offertory Invitation**

#### **Sharing Our Gifts**

*Tis so sweet to trust Jesus*

#### **Offertory Prayer**

### **Thematic Closing Hymn: Hymnal Insert,**

*Come! Walk in the Light*

### **Benediction**

L: The mystery has been made known!

**P: The good news of Jesus Christ is for all.**

**ALL: *There is light!***

### **Musical Response**

### **Postlude**

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**Worship Participants:** Norma Lee Hofer (organ), Amy Hofer Vetch (song leader), Todd Jones (worship leader, dramatic reading, & message), John Clem and Stan Hofer (dramatic reading), Monica Clem (dramatic reading & Communion Assistant), Monica Hofer (reader: Isaiah 60: 1-6 & Communion Assistance), Jill Hofer (children's time), Rebecca Hofer (reader: Matthew 2: 1-12), & Todd Koerner (Communion Assistant)

### **PRAYER CONCERNS/PRAISES**

- **Joline Thomas and Family** (Joline's father died on Christmas Day)
- **Byron Thomas**
- **From CPMC:** Pray for our conference that God would shape the desire of our hearts toward being biblically-grounded, Christ-centered communities.
- **From MMN:** Freddy and Margrit Kipfer Barrón of MMN build up the Bolivia Mennonite Church through serving in pastoral roles, leadership training, and Christian education ministries. Pray that God would inspire and strengthen them as they encourage the next generation of decision-makers in the church.

**Greeters:** Phil & Joline Thomas

**Nursery:** Paige Zachariasen

**Coffee Time:** Boni Hofer

**MW Jan. project:** Blankets, sheets or towels

**Children's Sun. School project:** Freeman Food Pantry

**6:30pm:** Community Epiphany Service, @ Missionary Church

We respectfully request that the ***designated pews*** remain open for families with young children and those with physical needs. We also request that the ***crying room*** remain available for infants and nursing mothers.

A ***Handicap Accessible Bathroom*** is located in the basement.

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

**Greeters:** Larry & Brigitta Hofer

**Nursery:** Open

**Piano:** Elvera Deckert

**Worship Music:** Harold & Phyllis Hofer

**Coffee Time:** Steven & Angela Hofer

## **THIS WEEK**

**Monday:** Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 12pm (Freeman Library)

**Tuesday:** Deacons Meeting, 7pm (Clem Residence)

**Wednesday:** Soup & Fellowship, 6:30pm

Kid's Club, 7pm

Midweek Bible Study, 7pm

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 13:** Prayer Shawl, 7pm

**January 15:** Soup & Fellowship, 6:30pm

Kid's Club, 7pm

Midweek Bible Study, 7pm

**January 16:** Church Board, 7pm

**This morning** we will celebrate **Communion**. At HMC, Communion is gladly shared with all who know Jesus as Savior and Lord and desire to walk with Him by faith. Please consider joining us for this special celebration.

Also, please note that the Deacons will be receiving gifts for the

**Benevolent Fund**, a fund established to assist members and friends of the congregation who are experiencing financial distress. If you or someone you know is experiencing financial difficulty, please contact Monica Clem, Todd Koerner, or Monica Hofer who can assist you with benevolent fund requests.

A basket will be placed in the foyer on Sunday, January 5, 2014 to receive monetary gifts to this fund.

**Mid-week Kid's Club**- looking for a couple of people to help teach at Kid's Club during midweek bible study starting January 8. Even just teaching a week or 2 is a great help! Contact Brandy Friesen 940-1493.

**Attention ladies!** We need someone to organize the MW program at Oakview Terrace on Fri., Jan. 31, 2:30 pm. Contact Barbie or Brigitta.

You are invited to a **Community Epiphany Service, this evening** at 6:30 p.m. This service is sponsored by the Freeman Ministerial Association and will be held at the Missionary Church. An offering will be received for the Freeman Ministerial Benevolent Fund and the Food Pantry at Bethany. A time of refreshment and fellowship will follow.

### **Checked out the church website yet?**

Hutterthal has a great new website full of information ready for you to explore and utilize!

What can you find at [hmcfreeman.org](http://hmcfreeman.org)?

- Weekly bulletins available by 12pm each Saturday
- Monthly newsletters in full color
- Current calendar of events
- Faith statements from church leadership
- Listings of current Hutterthal ministries
- Overview of Hutterthal and Mennonite beliefs/faith
- Links to the Freeman community and beyond

PLUS...

- The website is smartphone friendly, so you can check in on the go
- It's a great resource for your witness to friends, family and coworkers.

SO GO AHEAD, bookmark it, add it to your favorites bar, send or post a link today. Hutterthal's web address: [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://www.hmcfreeman.org)

There is a box in the foyer for **recycling old yearbooks**. We would like to reuse the binding.

**Rural Revival** will meet on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 8pm in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome. Visits the webpage at [www.ruralrevival.org](http://www.ruralrevival.org).

The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will be **making noodles** for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen on Tuesday, **Jan. 21 and Jan. 28** at Pioneer Hall from 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. Our snow date is Sat., Feb. 1.

**“In Diversity”**  
January 5, 2014

**SCRIPTURE READING #1:** Isaiah 61: 1-6 (Pew Bible p. 390)

**SCRIPTURE READING #2:** Matthew 2: 1-12 (Pew Bible p. 509)

**PERSONAL REFLECTIONS**

**John 1: 5** – “The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.” (MSG)

**2 Timothy 1: 9-10** – “God has saved us. He has chosen us to live a holy life. It wasn’t because of anything we have done. It was because of His own purpose and grace. Through Christ Jesus, God gave us that grace even before time began. It has now been made known through the coming of our Savior, Christ Jesus. He has destroyed death. Because of the good news, He has brought life out into the light. That life never dies.” (NIRV)

**Ephesians 3: 3a** – “... the mystery made known to [everyone] by revelation.” (NRSV)

**Luke 2: 10b** – “... a great and joyful event that is meant for *everybody*, worldwide” (MSG)

**John 8: 12b** – “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (NKJV)

**Ephesians 3: 6b** – “... fellow heirs, members of the same body, sharers in the promise.” (NIV)

**Matthew 5: 16b** – “... be a light for other people” (ERV)

**John 8: 12b** – “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (NKJV)