



**Hutterthal  
Mennonite  
Church**

**Christ-centered—Living, Relating, Serving**

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**THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT  
December 15, 2013**

**Prelude:** HWB no. 212,  
*Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Silence**

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## Opening Prayer

### Call to Worship

L: Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord!

**P: Let us awake to love!**

L: Strengthen your hearts, for the Lord is near.

**P: We will not grumble against one another.**

L: Come, rejoice in God our Savior.

**ALL: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in transformation!**

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

*Joyful Is the Dark*

### Dramatic Reading

### Confession & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 35: 1-10 (Pew Bible p. 376)

#### Litany of the Candle of Love

L: In the coming of Jesus, we see God's majesty: life springs out of death, desperation yields to hope. Let us pause to consider the redemptive power of God.

#### **Silence**

L: Let us confess the desert places in our lives, the ways we have gone astray, and all that is broken in the world.

#### **Silent Confession**

(The Candle of Peace is lit)

L: The third Advent Candle is the candle of love.

**P: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness, knowing that God dwells in the midst of transformation.**

### Children's Time:

The Curious Garden

### Scripture Reading:

11 (Pew Bible p. 514)

Matthew 11: 2-

#### Silent Meditation

### Sharing Time

#### Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

**Hymn:** HWB no. 194,

*Away in a Manger*

### Message:

In Transformation

### Time of Offering

#### Offertory Invitation

#### Sharing Our Gifts

#### Offertory Prayer

**Thematic Closing Hymn:** Hymnal Insert,

*Walk in the Light*

*Come!*

### Benediction

L: Go and tell what you hear and see!

**P: God's redeeming power transforms all that is broken.**

**ALL: In the mystery of God's dwelling in transformation,**

***there is love!***

## **Musical Response**

## **Postlude**

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**Worship Participants:** Amy Hofer Vetch (piano), Clara Koerner (song leader), Todd Jones (worship leader & message), John Clem, Monica Clem, Amanda Mettler & Brandon Waltner (dramatic reading), Michelle Neuharth (reader: Isaiah 35: 1-10), Jaden Thomas (Advent candle lighter), Jill Hofer (children's time), & Norman Hofer (reader: Matthew 11: 2-11)

## **PRAYER CONCERNS/PRAISES**

- **Byron Thomas**
- **From CPMC:** Pray for the Hmong Mennonite Church of St. Paul as they seek to train their young people for church leadership.
- **From MMN:** Justin Shenk and Valerie Showalter of Mennonite Mission Network request prayer for the Round Chapel where they worship and serve in the East End of London. Pray for unity of vision as members discern how God is calling the congregation to proactive discipleship.

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.

## **TODAY**

**Greeters:** Les & Mary Rensink

**Nursery:** Brandy Friesen

**Coffee Time:** John & Monica Clem

**MW Dec. project:** Bryon Thomas family

**Jr. S.S. project:** Sole Hope

**4:00pm:** Freeman Network for Justice & Peace @ HMC parsonage

## **NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Greeters:** Norman & Darlene Hofer

**Nursery:** Open

**Organ:** Edie Tschetter

**Coffee Time:** Phil & Joline Thomas

## **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday:** Pastor-Peer, 9:00am (Sioux Falls)

**Wednesday:** Youth Bible Study, 7:00pm

**Thursday:** Church Board, 7:00pm

**Saturday:** Longest Night Retreat, 10pm

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December 25:** Christmas Day Worship, 10am

**January 8:** Soup & Fellowship, 6:30pm

Kid's Club, 7pm

Midweek Bible Study, 7pm

**Deadline for 2014 Yearbook submissions: Fri. noon, Dec. 20.** This includes schedules (coffee, greeter, music, nursery, ushers, etc.), committee listings, care home programs, etc. There is a **directory** on the Coffee Fund Drive table for you to **update with your current contact information**.

Everyone enjoys the **coffee break** on Sunday mornings and at meetings. Once again it is time to make your contribution to the fund. There will be a box by the coffee table for you to make your **contributions**. Thank You.

~ The Coffee Committee

Do you have a heart for "middler's?" Do you have a desire to walk beside others in the faith and build in them the wonder, beauty, and truth of Jesus Christ? We are currently seeking a 1/3 time teacher for the **Middler Sunday School Class**. Those interested in participating in this ministry are asked to speak with Brandy Friesen.

**Freeman Network for Justice & Peace** will meet today at 4:00 pm at the HMC parsonage.

**In cases of inclement weather**, when Freeman schools do not open for the day, the **Et Cetera Shoppe will not open either**. This is for the safety of older volunteers and those who drive in from the country. We do try to maintain regular store hours in cases of late starts and early dismissals. Thank you for your understanding!

**FJC/FA Alumni Fellowship and Basketball** will be held on Friday, December 27 at Sterling Hall. A women's bb game will begin at 7 p.m. followed by a men's game. Free popcorn and beverages will be served from the concession stand and Bobcat gear will be raffled throughout the evening. All friends and family of Freeman Academy are welcome to attend!

### Message Notes:

Transformation; Love

Theme:

## “In Transformation”

December 15, 2013

**SCRIPTURE READING #1:** Isaiah 35: 1-10(Pew Bible p. 376)

**SCRIPTURE READING #2:** Matthew 11: 2-11(Pew Bible p. 514)

### PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

**Matthew 2: 18b** – “... weeping and wailing and mourning out loud all day and night. The voice is Rachel's, weeping for her children, her children who have been killed; she weeps and she will not be comforted.” (The Voice)

**Isaiah 61: 2c-4** – “... comfort all who mourn ... console those who mourn in Zion ... [giving] them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.’ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.” (NKJV)

**2 Corinthians 12: 9b** – “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (NKJV)

**John 10: 10b** – “I have come that [you] may have life, and that [you] may have it more abundantly.” (NKJV)

**John 1: 14** – “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. [And] we saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.” (MSG)

**Romans 8: 22-25** – “The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us, it's *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.” (MSG)

**John 3: 16-17** – “... God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (RSV)

**1 Corinthians 15: 51 & 53-55** – “... let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die – but we are all going to be changed.... In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true: 'Death swallowed by triumphant Life! Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now?' It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three – sin, guilt, death – are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!” (MSG)

**1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a** – “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” (NKJV)

**1 John 4: 8b** – “God is love.” (NKJV)