



**Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church**

Christ-centered—Living, Relating, Serving

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**FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT
December 22, 2013**

Prelude: HWB no. 210,
Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian

Silence

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

L: Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son!

P: Let us awake to joy!

L: He shall be called "God is with us,"

P: and will refuse evil and choose the good.

L: God give us a sign:

ALL: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in the Child that is born!

Thematic Opening Hymn: HWB no. 233,

Joyful Is the Dark

Dramatic Reading

Confession & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Scripture Reading:

(Pew Bible p. 362)

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Litany of the Candle of Joy

L: The power of God is held in the weakness of human flesh. Let us pause to consider the incarnation: a Child born and a Son given.

Silence

L: Let us confess our skepticism and doubt, the weakness of our mortality.

Silent Confession

(The Candle of Joy is lit)

L: The fourth Advent Candle is the candle of joy.

P: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness knowing that God dwells in the Child that is born.

Children's Time:

Gave Us Christmas

God

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1: 18-25 (Pew Bible p. 509)

Silent Meditation

Sharing Time

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Hymn: HWB no. 191,

Town of Bethlehem

O Little

Message:

In the Child that is Born

Time of Offering

Offertory Invitation

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Thematic Closing Hymn: Hymnal Insert,
in the Light

Come! Walk

Benediction

L: Receive the Child who comes to establish God's dwelling!

P: God is with us!

ALL: In the mystery of God's dwelling in the Child that's

born, there is joy!

Postlude (*Please depart in silence*)

Response Action:

Anointing

Opening: Psalm 80: 1-7 & 17-19

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

P: Stir up Your might, and come to save us!

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

L: O Lord God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

P: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

ALL: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: But let Your hand be upon the one at Your right hand, the one whom You made strong for Yourself. Then we will never turn back from You;

P: give us life, and we will call on Your name.

ALL: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

Prayer/Receiving Anointing

Closing:

adapted from

Psalm 80: 18b-19

L: Shepherd of Israel, You have given us life.

P: We will call upon Your name.

L: You have restored us, O God.

P: In the light of Your shining face,

ALL: we are saved.

Worship Participants: Paige Zachariasen (piano), Clara Koerner (song leader), Todd Jones (worship leader, dramatic reading, & message), Suzanne Koerner, Todd Koerner & Amanda Mettler (dramatic reading), Delmer Hofer (reader: Isaiah 7: 10-16), Hannah Jones (Advent candle lighter), Monica Hofer (children's time), & Jessica Preheim (reader: Matthew 1: 18-25)

PRAYER CONCERNS/PRAISES

• **Byron Thomas**

- **From CPMC:** Pray that in this Advent season God's Word would come to life in new and various ways that challenge, convict and transform us.
- **From MMN:** Lois and Wayne Hochstetler, pastoral counselors to MMN personnel around the world, were based in London, England, for five years. In November they returned to Illinois to complete the last four months of their assignment before retiring. Pray for the Hochstetler's in the many adjustments they are experiencing.

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: Norman & Darlene Hofer

Nursery: Open

Coffee Time: Phil & Joline Thomas

MW Dec. project: Bryon Thomas family

NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday after Christmas

Greeters: Shane & Any Hofer Vetch

Nursery: Open

Organ:

Coffee Time: Derrick & Jessica Preheim

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Christmas Day Worship, 10am

Greeters: Dennis & Marcia Schrock

Organ: Phyllis Hofer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2: Freeman Ministerial, 10am (Missionary Church)

January 4: Epiphany Retreat, 9am

January 5: Community Epiphany Service, 6:30pm (Missionary Church)

January 6: Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 12pm (Freeman Library)

January 7: Deacons Meeting, 7pm (Clem Residence)

January 8: Soup & Fellowship, 6:30pm

Kid's Club, 7pm

Midweek Bible Study, 7pm

The **deadline for all yearbook information was Friday** but there is still information that has not come in. Please get items to Edie as soon as possible.

Connection! deadline: Wed., noon, Dec. 25. Please give all into to Edie and church news to Twyla.

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

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.

On **Sunday, January 5, 2014** 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.

A **Christmas Choir Concert** will be held this evening at Salem-Zion Mennonite (North) Church beginning at 7:30pm.

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!

You are invited to a **Community Epiphany Service** on January 5, 2014 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.

Message Notes:

Christ's Birth

Theme:

“In the Child that is Born”

December 22, 2013

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Isaiah 7: 10-16 (Pew Bible p. 362)

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Matthew 1: 18-25 (Pew Bible p. 509)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Psalm 80: 2-7 – “Throw beams of light from Your dazzling throne so Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh can see where they’re going. Get out of bed –

You’ve slept long enough! Come on the run before it’s too late. God, come back! Smile your blessing smile: That will be our salvation. God ... You put

us on a diet of tears, bucket after bucket of salty tears to drink. You make us look ridiculous to our friends; our enemies poke fun day after day. God-

of-the-Angel-Armies, come back! Smile your blessing smile: That will be our salvation.” (MSG)

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

Luke 2: 10b-12 – “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the

city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a

manger.” (NKJV)

Luke 4: 18-19 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (NKJV)

Malachi 4: 2b – “... arises with healing in His wings ...” (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 6: 2 – “For He says, ‘In the time of My favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ I tell you, now is the time of God’s

favor, now is the day of salvation.” (NIV)