



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee VT #215

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT #216

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-17 Pew Bible p. 168

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music

Advent Drama

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38 Pew Bible p. 540

Message

Why me? Why not me?

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed VT #221

Savior of the Nations, Come! VT #214

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY Dec. 24, 2023 9:45 a.m.. Fourth Sun. of Advent

Worship Leader: John Clem

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Advent Drama Team: Isabel Waltner and Genna Kramer

Worship Music: Finley McCune arr. by Steve & Charlene Friesen

Message: Why me? Why not me?

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Luke 1: 26-38

Coffee Time: Larry & Edie Tschetter

No Sunday School.

NEXT SUNDAY Dec. 31, 2023 9:45 a.m.. Fifth Sun. of Advent

Worship Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Amy Hofer Vetch

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Advent Drama Team:

Message: Who Knows? - Kate Friesen

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Coffee Time: Priscilla Hofer

No Children's Sunday School. The intergenerational class will meet as usual in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

December 25: Christmas Day Service - 10 AM

December 31: ***Deadline for the 2024 Yearbook.***

January 10: Winter Midweek Bible Study at 7 PM

January 21: Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday and Communion here at HMC

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for December:

Cash for MCC for Israel/Palestine Conflict Victims

Please give donations to Joyce Hofer, C.M. Treasurer, or place in the C.M. mailbox.

Call to Worship:

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in Nazareth named Mary. He said to her, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you."

High voices: But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel's words,

Low voices: and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

People: Like Mary, we're also ordinary. Will God really work through us?

(pause)

All: Together we ponder.

Benediction Litany:

One: Together we ponder.

Many: We're so ordinary. Will God really work through us?

One: Do not be afraid! Nothing is impossible with God. Go, for the mighty one has done extraordinary things, and holy is God's name!

Thank you, Church family, for the box of chocolates and the nice visit of Barbie and Lyndon, who delivered them. I really appreciate them. - Ardella Gross

Come to church on Christmas Day (TOMORROW) at 10 AM for a simple, joy-filled celebration of Jesus Christ's birth that will include the Christmas narrative and Christmas carols for all to enjoy. The service will be live-streamed for those online.

The **draft of the 2024 Annual Yearbook** is sitting on the table in the upper foyer. Please check your information, along with any family members, and initial by it if correct or make necessary changes by December 31. Also, all **committee chairpersons** need to have their submissions to Aprille by this date as well. Please reach out with any questions you may have. Thank you!

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Sherryl Friesen on Dec. 25; Lyndon Hofer on Dec. 28. **Anniversary:** Steve & Charlene Friesen on Dec 27.
- Throughout the biblical story, we often see that the people who are the most ordinary are the ones through whom God chooses to work. In our humility, we sometimes ask "Why me?" when God invites us to participate. We might just as well ask "Why not me?" We're so ordinary; will God really work through us? Today we ponder how God works in ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- As we near our annual celebration of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, we pray for and grieve over the continued conflict between Israel and Hamas. We pray for a cease-fire, an end to the warfare, bombings, and destruction as the civilian toll reaches 20,000 people. We grieve with all of our Israeli and Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters whose Christmas has been disrupted and prevented by the ongoing conflict. We pray that God's faithful presence softens the hearts of global and local leaders so that fewer lives are lost and temporary as well as long-term solutions can be creatively and critically considered in this season when we celebrate the angels' proclamation, "Peace on earth, good will to all people."
- Please pray for Don Hofer as he heals and recovers from a partial hip replacement surgery. Earlier this week, Don fell and was taken to Sioux Falls where he received care for a broken hip.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

The deacons and pastor invite you to join in our annual **winter midweek bible study** on Wednesday evenings via Zoom at 7 PM starting on January 10. We will be studying and discussing the continued conflict between and context surrounding Israel and Hamas as we read the book, [I Am Not Your Enemy](#) by Michael T. McRay. If you are interested in getting a copy of the book through the church's group order, please contact Aprille or Pastor Randall. Our evenings together will include a brief prayer and sharing time, a short summary of the evening's topics and content, and then an open discussion time. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

Everyone enjoys **coffee time** at HMC. It's a great chance to meet visitors and connect with regulars. In December, you can contribute to the cost by making a donation in the designated "gift box" located in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time. Thank you! - Coffee Time Committee

The **December edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King share stories of people "moving toward Jesus;" meet two women who enjoy cooking and painting with MDS; learn why a retired Army General in Kentucky says, "only God could have made that happen;" and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. <https://conta.cc/3v4fpYd>

Register now for the **MCC South Texas Learning Tour**, February 4-9, 2024! This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at mcc.org/south-texas-lt. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.