



# Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

\*Welcoming One Another

\*Gathering and Praising

*Angels We Have Heard on High* VT #249

*With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT #208

Time of Remembrance

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Advent Drama

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40 Pew Bible p. 541

Message

And so we wait...

Offering Prayer

\*Responding and Sending

*Love Has Come* VT 258

*Joy to the World* VT #240

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

[www.HMCFreeman.org](http://www.HMCFreeman.org)

**TODAY 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:** Egan & Amanda Mettler and Lyndon Hofer

**Message:** Kate Friesen

**Coffee Time:** Priscilla Hofer

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

**NEXT SUNDAY January 7, 2024 9:45 a.m.. Epiphany Sunday**

**Worship Leader:** Todd Koerner

**Accompanist:** Paige Hofer

**Song Leader:** Aprille Birkey

**Children's Time:** Joline Thomas

**Worship Music:** Ardella Gross

**Advent Drama Team:** Emma Johnson & Isabel Waltner

**Message:** Mark Miller

**Coffee Time:** Lyndon & Barbie Hofer

**Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**Calendar:**

December 31: **TODAY *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: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

High voices: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshipped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

Low voices: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

**People: Our long wait is finally over!**

*(pause)*

***All: Together we rejoice.***

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### **Benediction Litany:**

One: Together we rejoice!

**Many: Our waiting is over!**

One: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him! Go! Rejoice! God is here!

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**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

**Thank you** Hutterthal Church family for the large box of chocolates. Also, thank you Lyndon and Barbie for the wonderful visit. It was so nice to be remembered by our church family. God bless all of you! - Delmer and Shirley Hofer

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 **TODAY!** Also, all **committee chairpersons** need to have their submissions to Aprille by today as well. Please reach out with any questions. Thank you!

### **Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- **Birthdays:** Ardella Gross on January 1 and Brandon Waltner on January 5.
- Please pray for Don Hofer as he heals and recovers from a partial hip replacement surgery.
- We give thanks for the year that is gone and pray for a new year of spiritual growth, deeper love, and greater discipleship in each of our lives and in our congregations.
- Although 2023 is ending with much suffering and violence around the world, join Mennonite Mission Network personnel in proclaiming our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil and injustice. May each of us continue to "be the Gospel" wherever we find ourselves.
- Pray for the families and individuals of Hutterthal. Pray for listening ears, seeing eyes, and discerning hearts as we all follow together in the way of Jesus.

### **Pastor Randall's contact information:**

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - [pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com)

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

**OAA Hours: Thursday mornings**

Church Email: [hutterthal@goldenwest.net](mailto:hutterthal@goldenwest.net)

Church Website: [www.hmcfreeman.org](http://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>

**Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, January 10 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

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](https://mcc.org/south-texas-lt). Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, [abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org](mailto:abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org).

**Thank you** to all that participated in the Sunday School Project for the Freeman Food Pantry. Here is the listing that was given:

- 6 Dental floss
- 35 tooth brushes
- 14 tubes of toothpaste
- 4 shampoos
- 2 hair conditioners
- 12 bars of soap
- 5 body wash bottles

Thank you from the Christian Education Board: Larry Tschetter, Kathy Pullman, Kenny Birkey.

### **News from Swan Lake Christian Camp**

December is a month to reflect on God's gracious mercy and our response to his son's birth, death and resurrection. We continue to host families and groups during the holidays as we prepare for a busy January and February of youth camps and adult ministries. This month, I ordered nearly \$90,000 of materials for the new worship center. This is a step in faith as the board and I walk out our belief that God has called us to build a place of worship adequate for the people He is drawing into a closer, personal relationship with Him. If you feel so led, consider a generous gift towards this project.