



# Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Call to Worship & Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles

\*Welcoming One Another

\*Gathering and Praising

*Bless'd Be the God of Israel* VT #223

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT #241

Scripture Reading      Isaiah 61:1-4Pew Bible p. 391

Sharing Time and Prayer

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Worship Music

*No Room, No Room*

Scripture Reading      Luke 4:14-19 Pew Bible p. 543

Message

Joy in Justice

Offering Prayer

\*Responding and Sending

*What Child... & Helpless and Hungry* VT #267, #268

*How Many Times We Start Again* VT #553

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*please stand if you are able

View today's service here:

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

**TODAY      Dec. 15, 2024 9:45 a.m. 3rd Sun. Advent**

**Worship Leader:** Brigitta Hofer

**Candlelighters:** Isabel Waltner; Alyssa Hofer

**Accompanist:** Charlene Friesen

**Song Leader:** Randall Koehler

**Time for the Young & Young at Heart:** Suzanne Koerner

**Worship Music:** Mixed Ensemble coordinated by Amy Hofer Vetch; Music by Ruth Morris Gray

**Message:** Pastor Randall

**Coffee Time:** John & Monica Clem

**Children are practicing for annual Christmas program;**

**Adult SS following coffee time in the Education Wing.**

**NEXT SUN: Dec. 22, 2024 9:45 a.m. 4th Sun. Advent**

**Worship Leader:** Jaden Thomas

**Candlelighters:** Isabel Waltner; Alyssa Hofer

**Accompanist:** Amy Hofer Vetch

**Song Leader:** Aprille Birkey

**Time for the Young & Young at Heart:** Suzanne Koerner

**Worship Music:** Children's Christmas Program

**Scripture:** Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-49

**Message:** "Embodying God's Spirit" - Pastor Randall

**NO COFFEE TIME; join us in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Christmas program for brunch**

**Calendar:**

Dec. 18: Church Board Meeting at 7 PM

Dec. 22: Worship at 9:45 AM, followed by Children's Christmas Program and a fellowship meal

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service at HMC at 10 AM

Dec. 29: Time of Remembrance during worship

Jan. 8: Winter Midweek Bible Study begins at 7 PM

### **Call to Worship:**

Leader: Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

**People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.**

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

**People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted. May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.**

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

**People: We delight and rejoice in you.**

### **Lighting the Advent Candles:**

Reader 1: Like a cloth with frayed edges, our world leaves people on the fringes;

Reader 2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

Reader 1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

Reader 2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

*(Lighting Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy )*

***All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.***

**Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- **Birthdays:** Eric Neuharth on December 20 and Joyce Hofer on December 21.
- We pray for those church leaders in Central Plains who are involved in a conference-led Leader's Table. May they find fellowship and wisdom around the table as well as the courage to try new things.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Tanzania Mennonite Church, as they begin three days of Sister Care/Compassionate Care seminars on Wednesday. Church leaders Rev. Esther Muhagachi and Rev. John Wambura ask that we join them in praying for God's spirit to move in powerful ways so that people can begin healing from trauma and begin mending broken relationships.
- Additional Requests during sharing time: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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.

**Pastor Randall's contact information:**

**Pastor Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8:30 AM -12 PM**

Phone - 309-208-6032

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

**Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey**

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

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

If you are not yet a member at Hutterthal, have you considered joining a **membership class**? Pastor Randall will be leading a class in the new year about what it does and does not mean to make this particular commitment to our congregation and the wider church. If you are interested in joining this class in January, contact Pastor Randall or one of the deacons (Amy, Brigitta, Lyndon, or Suzanne).

All are invited to join the deacons and pastor for **winter midweek Bible Study**, starting Wednesday, January 8. We will be studying Meghan Larissa Good's book, The Bible Unwrapped. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book through a group order for our congregation, please email, text, or call the HMC Administrative Assistant, Aprille, by December 18. You can also order your own copy of the book from wherever might be most convenient for you.

If you are planning on participating in midweek winter Bible Study in January, it will be offered in a **hybrid format (meaning both in-person and online at the same time)**. Our gathering will still be on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM, starting January 8, but you will be able to join virtually via a zoom link in the bulletin and weekly emails or in-person by coming to the upper room of the Et Cetera Shoppe, above the church office in Freeman. All of the zoom participants will join the conversation on their computers, and then will appear on one computer alongside those gathered in person like we do for annual meeting and church board meetings.

Everyone is invited to stay for **brunch following the children's Christmas program** on December 22. If you are able to provide an egg bake (9 x 13" pan), a dozen muffins, or a quick bread, that would be appreciated! Sign up on the sheet on the ushers table in the foyer. Christian Education Committee

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 **draft of the 2025 Annual Yearbook** is sitting on a stand 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 for the Yearbook to Aprille by Dec. 31. Please reach out with any questions that you may have. Thank you!

A **special year-end offering** is being collected for HMC to accept donations that will be directed to the donor's choice of the following organizations: CPMC, Freeman Academy, MCC, MCC Meat Canning, Mennonite Church USA, Swan Lake Christian Camp, & Wellspring. A basket will be in the upper foyer for those that wish to participate. Please indicate on your check to which organization you wish to designate your gift.

The Mission and Service Team of South Church is sponsoring the **holiday Senior Giving Tree** for residents of Oakview Terrace and Assisted Living. Trees with gift tags and instructions will be located at Jamboree Foods, Norm's Thrifty White. Gifts must be returned by December 19 to ensure Christmas delivery.

Just a reminder to encourage your kids to get signed up for **winter retreat** this year. The Swan Lake Winter Retreat Schedule is right after the holidays. Signing up now helps us prepare for all who are able to join us in January.