

Luke 1:67-79

Zechariah's Prophecy (A Song of Salvation)

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH, 102 S. Ash, Hillsboro, KS 67063, 620.947.5662

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FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Advent – December 5, 2021
Dare to imagine God's embrace!**

**Imagine the wideness of God's embrace of all creatures and
creation! It will widen our hearts to do the things
that make for *peace*.**

GATHERING

Gathering Music	Shirley Baltzer
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting	Doug Miller
Prelude to Worship	Shirley Baltzer
*Call to Worship	Doug Miller

In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.

God comes close, open-armed.

We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

God's embrace is wide.

*A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,"
and God pulls the cries close.*

God is already here.

Hymn	Comfort, Comfort, O My People	VT 212
Candle Litany		

We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:

God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

*We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's
nearness, God's breath.*

Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Hymn	Hope Is a Candle	VT 211
Confession and Assurance		

*God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your
beauty and goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace.*

(silence)

Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and tasks.

(silence)

Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine freedom from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world in which we live, knowing your hand will guide us.

(silence)

Assurance

I invite you now to imagine the support of God's hands as you rise to your feet physically or in spirit.

Hear now God's words of assurance and peace:

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Time for God's Children

Aleen Ratzlaff

SHARING

Sharing and Prayer

Pastor Tom

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VT 216

LISTENING

Scripture

Luke 1:67-79

Message

A Song of Salvation

Pastor Tom

RESPONDING

Hymn

We Dream of a Turning

VT 209

Benediction

Pastor Tom

Postlude

Our musicians this morning are: Holly Swartzendruber (song leader), Shirley Baltzer (piano), Tom Voth (violin), Greg Zielke (French Horn), and Tom Harder (5-string violin and guitar).

TREASURER'S REPORT 12/05/2021:

FMC Ministries Fund:

Year-To-Date Income: \$101,641.09

Year-To-Date Expenses: \$108,465.00

Second Sunday Offerings:

November - Mennonite Mission Network: \$840.00

Poinsettias: You are invited to share poinsettias for Advent! Please place plants in the Fellowship Hall south window area. Plants can be taken home after the December 24 Christmas Eve Service. Thank you!

'TIS THE SEASON FOR ANNUAL REPORTS! The deadline is **December 15** this year for your annual reports to be submitted to the church office. Thank you for your hard work throughout the year, committee and council members!

Join the singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, returning in-person Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m. in Memorial Hall with chamber orchestra, soloists and student conductors. Scores provided. Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing to the extent possible and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.

You are invited to the Christmas Gala Jazz concert Friday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing to the extent possible and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Goessel HS gym. This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Note the location change accommodating for social distancing. Come and enjoy a festive brass Christmas concert!

The MCC Comforter Blitz Committee is looking for additional committee members! Would you be interested in assisting the making of comforters for Mennonite Central Committee and helping plan the annual three-day comforter making event in Yoder, Kansas? If so, we would love your skills and your voice! If interested, please reach out to Committee Chair, Kara Klingenberg at k.klingenberg@hotmail.com or call her at 620-983-9003 for more information. We are currently looking for a treasurer, advertising help, and anyone else who is interested in helping.