

Isaiah 61 (1, 3, 10)

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Psalm 126 (1-2, 5-6)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Luke 1 (46b-53)

^{46b} "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, ⁵⁰and holy is his name. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

1 Thessalonians 5 (16-18)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020**

“On the road to restoration and joy”

The gift offered to the repentant is restoration and joy. The road to both is a journey toward wholeness in body, soul, and spirit.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Will Friesen

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Keith Harder

Lighting the Advent Candle

“Longing for Light,” vs 1-3

Gray 1 (VT 715)

*Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 126:2-6)

Keith

The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.

The Lord has done great things for us—we rejoice!

*Prayer of Invocation and Confession

God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.

Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.

Hymn

We Come

VT 225

“Joy on the Road”

Judy Harder and “Travelers”

SHARING

Offering		Will
Sharing and Prayer		Pastor Tom
Hymn	Come, thou long expected Jesus	No. 178 (VT 218)

LISTENING

Litany	(Lection Selections from the Third Sunday of Advent)	
Message	Filled With Joy	Pastor Tom

RESPONDING

Confession and words of assurance		
Hymn	My soul is filled with joy	Gray 13
Benediction		Pastor Tom
Postlude		

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL *who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you are able to watch this service!*

First Mennonite leaders continue to carefully and prayerfully consider plans for Christmas Eve. If we are able to gather in the sanctuary, physical distancing and masks will be required. We also urge pre-arranged seating for all those considering attending. Judy Harder, along with Maura Wiebe are creating a seating chart. Families with children and youth plus leaders and musicians have already been assigned seats. We now urge all additional folks wanting to attend to phone or email Judy or Maura and give their contact information to be called about seating options. We respect changes in plans, even last minute changes. Do not hesitate to contact us with those tentative plans. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Poinsettias shared with the church during this Christmas season may be placed near the windows in the Fellowship Hall.

MCC Hygiene Kit donations may be placed on the table in the Narthex.

TODAY 8 p.m. – All are invited to take part in Bethel College's annual Lighting of the Green, from wherever you are. This long-standing Bethel Advent tradition celebrates the Light that shines in the darkness, the life and light of Christ who came into the world giving light to all humankind. Normally held on the Green in the center

of campus, the gathering will take place virtually this year, live online (links follow) with some parts pre-recorded.

Go to bethelks.edu, scroll to FEATURED NEWS, and click the Lighting of the Green article, where you will find both links.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

FMC Ministries Fund:

Year-To-Date Income: \$117,549.44

Year-To-Date Expenses: \$122,526.77

FMC Ministries Fund Cash Flow Balance: -\$4,977.73

Income needed at this point in the fiscal year to stay on pace to fully fund our FMC ministries budget: \$135,409.00

Year-to-Date FMC Ministries Income: \$117,549.44

Income deficit for fully funded FMC ministries budget: \$17,859.56

Second Sunday Offerings:

October - MCC Meat Canning: \$500.00

November - Mennonite Mission Network: \$375.00