

Salina Mennonite Church

Salina Mennonite Church is a Christian community seeking to share God's love through celebration, nurture, service, and peacemaking.

Greeter: Gary Weathers

Soloist: Annelle Claassen

Worship Leader: Tom Claassen

Storyteller: Pete Smucker

Speaker: Christina Litwiller

Music: Lori Schmidt

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Blessing and Restoration

On this final Sunday of Advent we delight with Mary in the blessing bestowed on all God's people through the gift of Christ.

In preparation for Christmas Day we humble ourselves before God's greatness—our Messiah who comes to restore the world. We rejoice that Jesus came into the world to be our light, our peace, and our example.

Gathering

Gathering Song *Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him* Sing the Journey 3

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. John Carter

Call to worship

Leader: Mary is with child!

God's long-awaited promise is being fulfilled!

People: Rejoice in his name!

Emmanuel, God be with us!

Leader: The little baby in his mother's womb,

he will be the Savior of this hurting world.

People: Bringing us new life, filled with joy and peace,

calling us to faith and action.

All: Praise be to God. Alleluia! Amen!

Opening Prayer

Hymn *O Savior, Rend the Heavens* Hymnal 175

Passing the Peace/Greeting Each Other

Hearing God's Word

Storytelling *Love*

Candle Lighting *Hope is a candle, vs. 3 (2X)* Sing the Story 15

Sermon *Mary's Story¹* Luke 1:26-56

Hymn *The Angel Gabriel* Hymnal 180

Solo *Breath of Heaven*

Hymn *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* Hymnal 181

Hymn *Unexpected and Mysterious* Voices Together 3

Responding

Sharing Our Lives/Congregational Prayer

Offering *Still, Still, Still/Mary, Did You Know* arr. Carol Tornquist

Offering Response *Lord of All Good* Sing the Journey 60

Sending

Hymn *Move in Our Midst* Hymnal 418

The Lord's Prayer

Pray using the words "sins" and "those who sin against us."

Benediction

¹ Adapted from "Let It Be: Mary Gives Birth to God's Plan" by Rev. David Inglis, <http://henriettaucc.org/HuccWeb10/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Bringing-the-Christmas-story-to-life.pdf>

Churchwide Prayer Requests

Give thanks for the gift of God's Word-made-flesh in Jesus, and for the many ways in which WDC congregations make God's love tangible in our world today.

In this season of "Peace on earth, goodwill to all people," Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder of Mennonite Mission Network request prayer for peace in Burkina Faso, where terrorist groups have become more active. May the Mennonite Church show the way to the Prince of Peace.

Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH): Pray for fruitful teaching and learning during the first trimester of 2019 at SeBAH. Pray for SeBAH supporters and the many Hispanic/Latino churches that have benefited from SeBAH's ministry. Pray that God brings all the funds needed for this fiscal year's teaching program.

This Christmas season, the staff of MC USA prays that you would seek the light of Christ and find ways to share joy with one another.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 30, 2018

9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upstairs – Christmas Prayers

- Pray together using *Take Our Moments and Our Days*

Downstairs – Bible Study

- God Commands Our Love, Respect, and Obedience
- *Modeling God's Love* – Matthew 25:31-46

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

Greeter: David Van Tassel

Storyteller: Mike Mattson

Worship Leader: Christina Litwiller

Music: Lori Schmidt

Upcoming Events

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Gathering	8:00-?? p.m.
Jan. 6	Communion	10:00 a.m.
Jan. 8	Worship Committee	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 24	Church Board	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 20	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 a.m.

Announcements

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 7:00 p.m on Monday, December 24. Please bring a song, instrumental offering, or reading to share.

Bring Christmas treats to share after the service.

Five Times Harder will perform a holiday concert at First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro, KS on December 30 at 4:00 pm. They will perform a variety of Christmas music in styles ranging from classical to bluegrass to folk. No admission charge. Tom Harder is pastor at First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS, and Lois Harder is Bridge Pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS.

New Year's Eve Gathering: Join a come and go party at the church beginning at 8:00 p.m. Monday, December 31. Bringing treats is welcomed but not required. *Cards Against the Mennonites* provided. Bring other games and activity ideas.

WDC Immigration Task Force invites you to register for the May 6-11, 2019 MCC South Texas Borderlands Learning Tour. Go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/learning-tour-south-texas-borderlands> to register. Cost: \$650. For more information, please contact Kathy at 316-283-6300.

Western District Conference year-end snapshot: Last January, over 130 people gathered to launch WDC's Year of Evangelism and learn authentic ways to share the Jesus story in our own contexts. It was energizing to hear stories of relationships healed, community needs met, and spiritual lives transformed by love lived out through Jesus' friends. The Year of Evangelism is just one way your gifts to WDC empower congregations to witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, dwell in just and loving relationships, and connect to God's mission in the world! As we work together to meet WDC's budget goal for the year, we request your donations online at www.mennowdc.org or sent to WDC at PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117. Thank you for planting these seeds of hope!

Salina Mennonite Church

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