



## Salina Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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

*We hold that every person is created in God's image. We embrace differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or status.*

### December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

Christina Litwiller, Pastor  
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Artwork by Michelle Burkholder  
and worship resources by Joanna  
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#### Welcome

**Prelude** *Still, Still, Still with Mary, Did You Know?*

arr. Carol Tornquist

**Hymn** *O du fröhliche (Oh, How Joyfully)*

Voices Together 254

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: Together we seek the Holy One.  
We call upon God, who is near.

**ALL:** *Near in the Christ child we celebrate.  
Near in the Spirit we receive.  
Near in the creation we inhabit.*

Leader: Together we proclaim Emmanuel –

**ALL:** *God-with-us.*

Leader: Together we live Emmanuel.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: As we light the Christ candle, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus.  
Along with Mary we seek to treasure this gift and  
to ponder all that Emmanuel means for us.

*Based on Isaiah 55:6-9*

**Hymn** *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

Voices Together 259

**Scripture** *Luke 2:1-7*

**Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Voices Together 245

**Scripture** *Luke 2:8-14*

**Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Voices Together 249

**Scripture** *Luke 2:15-20*

**Hymn** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Voices Together 243

**Reflection** *Mary Treasures and Ponders by Joanna Harader*

**Hymn** *What Child Is This/Helpless and Hungry*

Voices Together 267/268

**Video** *Merry Christmas from MC USA!*

**Video** *Merry Christmas from MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries*

#### Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn** *Love Has Come*

Voices Together 258

**Reading** *Mary's Blessing by Joanna Harader*

**Hymn** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Voices Together 261

**Offertory Prayer**

Leader: Holy One, Emmanuel: as you have given yourself to us  
 through the coming of the Christ child, we also give ourselves to you.  
**ALL:** *Receive our offerings, given with joy, that they may be part of your life in this world.*

**Announcements**

**Hymn** *Joy to the World* Voices Together 240

**Benediction**

*Go forth to treasure this life that God has given you. Take time to ponder the mysterious blessing of Emmanuel – God-with-us. God with us now. God with us always. Amen.*

**Postlude** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Mark Hayes

**Christian Education**

For Children – *The Upside-Down Kingdom: Advent and Christmas*

- Activities to do at home

For Adults – 9:00 a.m. Sunday

- Bible Study – *God's Plan for Freedom and Justice* – In the basement
- Book Study – *Expecting Emmanuel* by Joanna Harader – In the fellowship room

**Upcoming Events**

Saturday	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Game Night	7:00 pm
Sunday	Jan. 1	Worship	10:00 am
Wednesday	Jan. 11	Worship Committee @ Newcomers'	7:00 pm
Thursday	Jan. 26	Church Board at Vera Zerger's Home	7:00 pm

**Pastor Christina's Office Hours**

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday This schedule may vary. Check first before stopping by.  
 Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

**Worship Totals**

2022	Attendance		Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/18	Zoom 11 <u>In-Person 24</u> Total 35		\$170.00	Cottonwood Mattress Fund \$1,410.00	\$1,5800.00

**Local Announcements**

**Mattress Fund:** We collected \$1,410 plus two mattresses to assist a family of seven connected with Cottonwood School. The money is being used to purchase a bunk bed and furnish their apartment.

**New Year's Eve Game Night: Saturday, December 31, at 7:00 pm. at the church.** Bring games, food, and/or drink. Stay as long as you care to stay. Last one out can turn off the lights.

**SouperBowl of Hope:** We are collecting donations for the annual Souperbowl of Hope from now until February 12. This year's goal is 57,000 cans of soup to be distributed between the Salina Food Bank, Salvation Army, Rescue Mission, Ashby House, and DVACK. \$25 will buy 60 cans of soup.

## Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Western District Conference:** On this Christmas Day, give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence made tangible through the life and witness of WDC congregations.

**Help Camp Mennoscah Plan for the Future!** A seven-question survey will help us know how camp is used and what you would like to see in the future. [Click here to tell us what you think!](#)

**Announcement from Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS:** Trinity Mennonite Church is planning to end its time as a congregation. The congregation has given their building at 211 S. Elm to the Hillsboro Community Childcare Center, a much needed ministry in the community. A church "close out sale" (garage sale) will be Saturday, January 21 in the Fellowship Hall with craft items, toys, Christmas decorations, artificial 6 foot trees, artificial flower bouquets, candles, vases, different hymn books, ping pong table, fus ball game, electric treadmill, costumes (and other items found in Sunday School closets and worship supply closets). Come explore from 9:00 am-2:00 pm! All purchases are by donation to the Childcare Center. For bigger items like pulpits, upright pianos, communion tables, communion sets, organ, pews, banners, large hedge-wood crosses, etc. please call the church at 620-947-3824 to express your interest. Our last service will be April 9, Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 am following a sunrise service (at the actual time of sunrise) and a 9:30 brunch. Guests and former members of Trinity are welcome to attend.

## Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Mennonite Mission Network:** MMN offers a blessing for each member of your congregation on this Christmas Day. May we encourage one another to follow Jesus' example and become incarnations of God's love and peace in our communities, today and in the coming year.

**Mennonite Education Agency:** Join MEA in praying for the 30 schools affiliated with MC USA. MEA's monthly prayer newsletter, with requests from the schools, is found at [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#).

**Mennonite Church USA:** MC USA has named John Stoner and Clara Weybright as this year's #BringThePeace awardees. Stoner received the Legacy Peacemaker award, and Weybright received the Young Peacemaker award. The awards are sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the awardees here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award)

**#BeTransformed:** Being transformed by moving across state lines while trusting in God's plan for your life can cause one to realize that they are in fact not fully in control. Read more about Rachel Ringenberg Miller's journey to serving as denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA: [mennoniteusa.org/relinquishing-control](https://mennoniteusa.org/relinquishing-control)

**Mennonite World Conference:** We pray about the leadership challenges in the Indian churches. We also pray for new believers who are desiring to be baptized. May congregations take courageous steps to offer baptism. —submitted by Vikal Rao, Mennonite Church India, Chhattisgarh