

December 9, 2018
Worship: 9:30 am
Christian education: 11:00 am

GATHERING

Prelude Crystal Underwood

Welcome, announcements, introductions

Call to worship

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord,
for things are about to change.

**People: Every valley shall be filled in
and every mountain made low.**

Leader: As we await the coming of the Messiah,
we are called to prepare our hearts for his coming.

**People: We are called to turn around, repent,
and allow God to renew us and work within us.**

All: Then we will see the salvation of our God!

Prayer

*Hymns *Blessed be the God of Israel* HWB 174
Somos pueblo que camina /We are people on a journey SJ 8

Scripture Malachi 3:1-3 Mary Klassen

Confession

All: We need you to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten your Law, forgotten your love for us. We are in need of your deliverance, because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost, in need of rescue.

Silent Prayer

All: Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Words of Assurance

Hymn *Wild and lone the prophet's voice* SS 8

LISTENING

Children's time Jan Stair

Lighting the Peace Candle Children
God of Peace, Christ of Peace, Spirit of Peace, you are calling us to be peacemakers. Today we light this candle as a reminder of our calling.
Dios de paz. Cristo de paz. Espíritu de paz. Tú nos llamas para ser pacificadores. Hoy encendemos esta candela para recordarnos de este llamado.

Special music Tanzanian song

Scripture Luke 1:68-79 Sueann VonGunten, Jake Hess

Sermon **Proclaiming the promise** Esther Mahaguchi

RESPONDING

*Hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus* HWB 178

Responding in testimony and sharing Tim Stair
What spoke to you this morning? What joys and concerns would you share? (Please be brief and focused.)

Prayer

Offering

(Please sign the attendance register at the end of the row)

SENDING

*Hymn *How firm a foundation* HWB 567

*Benediction

*Postlude

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

*Please stand if you are able for items marked with an asterisk.
Children grades K through 5 are invited to the playground at the back of the sanctuary for quiet activities after the children's time.
Please return your hymnal(s) to a cart in the hallway.

December 9, 2018

Assisting in our worship today

Worship leader Sueann VonGunten
Pianist Crystal Underwood
Song leader Lane Miller
Ushers Chris Habegger,
Ray Kraucunas, Terry Kraucunas
Childcare Greg Suderman, Rose George
Sound system Fabian Rosales

Snacks Louise and Virgil Claassen

Hosts Jan and Tim Stair

Next Sunday Tim Stair, preacher
Sueann VonGunten, worship leader

Attendance, Nov 18 95, including 6 guests

Birthdays this week

SaeJin Lee (10)
Marilyn Klassen (12)

Calendar for the week

Tues, Dec 11, 5:30 pm Stewardship Commission
Tues, Dec 11, 5:45 pm Education Commission
Wed, Dec 12, 6 pm Prayer Choir
Wed, Dec 12, 7 pm Leadership Council
Wed, Dec 12, 7 pm Mennonite Women program
Thurs, Dec 13, 6 pm Rios de Agua Viva
Sat, Dec 15, 7-9 am Rios de Agua Viva
Sat, Dec 15, 8 am Men's Fellowship breakfast

Upcoming calendar items

Thurs, Dec 20, 6:30 pm Caroling at Golden Living Center
Mon, Dec 24, 6:30 pm Christmas Eve service
Mon, Dec 31, 6:30 pm New Year's Eve service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas giving projects

Hats, mittens, gloves: Through the Worship Commission, our congregation will again collect hats, mittens and gloves (primarily for children) in the manger near the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary. Just after Christmas these will be distributed to The Window, CAPS (the Joy Rose Center) and Emerge Ministries. Let's have more than a manger full!

Gifts for Goldenrod residents: Again this year, we will provide gifts for residents in one of the Goldenrod homes—homes that support people with differing abilities to live as independently as possible. More information about gift suggestions will be shared soon week and gifts should be brought to Hively by December 20.

Mennonite Women will meet Wednesday, Dec. 12, beginning at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Jan Stair and Winifred Saner will tell about their experiences and share pictures from their trip to Guatemala, focusing particularly on the work that Deb Byler is doing among the Kekchi women. All women in the congregation are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Plan to join in caroling: We have arranged to sing carols at Golden Living Center, 1001 W Hively Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 20 from 6:30-7 pm. Mark your calendar and plan to join in.

Bethany Christian High School will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 14, in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song, "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

Central District Conference upcoming meeting: A regional gathering for Central District Conference is set for Saturday, January 26, 10 am to 3 pm at Assembly Mennonite Church, hosted by Open Table Mennonite Fellowship. All are invited.

Church Community Services announcements

The CCS Pantry could use donations of hearty soups and peanut butter.

CCS's Soup of Success program has a number of food and unique hand-crafted items that make wonderful gifts. Store hours are 9-4 Mon-Thur and 9-2 Friday, at 907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart. You also can shop online: www.soupsuccess.com.

Donate to Pigs for the Pantry: A donation of \$125 provides 665 servings of ground pork to help the 1400 guests who visit the food pantry each month. Send a check to PO Box 2346, Elkhart, IN 46515, or go to www.givetoccs.com and designate your donation to Pigs for the Pantry.

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 am-3 pm. **We need backup drivers** to drive our box trucks and vans for food pick-up. If you are interested contact Jen McOwen at 295-3673 ext. 112, or volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org

Christian education today

Adults can enjoy extended fellowship time. Study of *Pathways* will resume next Sunday.

Children and youth will meet in their classes as usual.