



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA

December 13, 2009
10:45 a.m.

Walking Together
Advent 3

Rejoice! God comes in mercy to turn us around

Gathering

Music for Gathering Richard Dahlquist
Once in Royal David's City and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
(arr. Innes)

Lighting the Christ Candle and the Peace Lamp

Gathering Hymn
Blest Are They SJ 94

Gathering Words and Prayer Christine Moyer

Gathering Hymn
Blest Are They SJ 94

Scripture Reading
Isaiah 12:1-6
Luke 3:7-18

Hymns and Songs of Praise
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven! WH 65
Hark! The Glad Sound! WH 184

We Trust in God

Lighting the Advent Candle Kate, Emily and Ethan Milton
I Will Trust in You

Leader: The candle reminds us to take heart.
The candle reminds us to get ready and choose the path of peace.
All: *The third candle of Advent anticipates God's bursting in and breaking out. God bursts in and calls us to break out of behaviors that are selfish and oppressive towards our neighbors. We light this candle as a reminder that in God's mercy, God turns us around.*

Leader: Beloved of God, rejoice! God comes to turn us around. God reveals the way of peace.

Time with the Children Barbara Ewy
Worship Music Andrea Friesen

What Child is This? (arr. Heffler)

Proclamation Stephen Penner
John in the Time of Tiberius

Responding in Trust

Song of Christmas
Comfort, Comfort, O My People WH 176

Litany of Response
Leader: Lord, in this time of Advent, we celebrate your presence with us and long for your coming. We rejoice that you do not forget us, but break into the confusion of our lives. You keep coming in mercy to turn us around.

People: *Lord, help us in our turning around. Help us repent and turn toward you.*

Leader: We confess that we have tried many paths and that our wandering has made us weary.

People: *Guide us with your grace.*

Leader: Lord, in your loving kindness, help us to fear no more.

People: *Rejoice! Sing aloud! God forgives!*

Leader: We rejoice because God is in our midst, turning us around and taking away our fear. God rejoices over us with gladness, God renews us with love.

People: *God saves the lame, gathers up the outcasts and changes their shame into praise.*

Leader: We rejoice in your plan of salvation. You restore your people. Lord, come to save us! Amen.

Sharing our Gifts
Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (arr. Manz)

Recognizing Laura Neufeld's Service at our Church
Praying Stephen Penner.

Song of Christmas
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus WH 178

Sending

Spoken Benediction
Postlude
Of the Father's Love Begotten (arr. Marten)



Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. If you are visiting with us today we ask that you sign the guest book at the back of the church and that you please accept a small gift prepared just for you. The gift can be found in a basket on the back table!

The Oil Lamp at the front of our meeting place symbolizes our prayers for peace between our country and neighbors around the world.

Assistance for the hearing impaired is available from the audio operator.

December 20, 2009 Our English language service on the third Sunday of Advent will include beautiful singing by our church choir. Stephen Penner will bring the morning message. Our Spanish language service will include a timely message by Juan Montes and spirited singing.

December 27, 2009 We will meet two days after Christmas for our usual Sunday morning services, one in Spanish and one in English. This is the last Sunday of the calendar year and, with our hearts still in Christmas mode, we will do further reflecting on the season we are in.

Nursery Workers are greatly appreciated. The staffed, early childhood nursery is in Room 3 of the Education Wing. The un-staffed infant nursery is in the back of the sanctuary.

December 13 – Jenny Penner, Carmen Montes

December 20 – Laura Penner, Jessica Ambriz

December 27 – Glenna Penner, Maritza Ambriz

If you are unable to take your turn on the scheduled day, please trade with someone.

Fellowship Time Everyone is invited to come to the kitchen end of the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. after the Sunday School Hour for a time of food and fellowship. The following people are scheduled to help with coffee prep and bring food on the following Sundays:

December 13 – Cathy Ratmeyer (coffee); Glenna Penner (food)

December 20 – Melinda & Dave Hasegawa (coffee); Augustina & Cruz Carrilo (food)

December 27 – Marty & Wayne Zimmerman (coffee); Katharine Dettweiler (food)

If you are unable to take your turn on the scheduled day, please trade with someone.

Laura Neufeld For the past year our congregation has been blessed by Laura Neufeld's presence with us. Laura has served our congregation in a variety of capacities from visitation to preaching to youth work and more. We are going to miss her a lot. Laura is a student in the M.Div. program at MBBS. We wish her God's richest blessings as she continues her studies and contemplates ministry options in the future.

Christmas Program Rehearsal We continue our Christmas program rehearsal today at 3:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Christmas Program "Follow the Star" will be performed by our young people on December 20 at 5:00 p.m. in our church sanctuary. Following the program everyone is invited to a dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite cookies to share.

Christmas Caroling The Education Committee is sponsoring Christmas caroling at Sierra View Homes again this year. We will assemble at Sierra View at 6:00 pm on Monday evening, December 21. Afterwards we will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring some goodies to share!

Christmas Day Service Our Christmas day service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 25. Join us for this service of praise and thanksgiving in celebration of the birth of Jesus. There will be plenty of music and we will hear again the Christmas story.

Joys and Concerns We pray for people in our midst who recently have undergone surgery and are now recovering, or undergoing treatment as part of their recovery. We think of Alfred Unruh, Florence Siebert, and Bernice Isaak. We are thankful for the healing they have experienced, and we ask for God's hand upon their lives. We remember in prayer Ruth Rogalsky as she undergoes back surgery tomorrow at St. Agnes Hospital.

Jim Schrag has officially retired as the first executive director of our denomination, Mennonite Church USA. May God bless Jim as he embarks on his new project, writing the story of how our new denomination came to be.

Peace Center Friday, December 18, 6:30-8:30 Speaker: Eleanor Nickel. Topic: *Slave Narratives: How Does a Pacifist Respond?* During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, American slaves who had escaped to the North wrote bestselling narratives of their painful experiences in bondage. Former slaves such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs made compelling arguments for aggression against the Confederacy and rejoiced when the Civil War finally destroyed the slave system. How does someone, who believes war is wrong, respond to those so horribly victimized by an evil regime that they are begging for war?

Join the Fellowship Sunday School Class to study the book *Gandhi and Jesus: The Saving Power of Nonviolence* by Terrence J. Rynne. The Fellowship class began this study this morning and will continue for (at least) the rest of the winter quarter. You are invited to join the Fellowship class for this study.

The Prayer Sunday School Class will begin studying *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan on January 10, 2010. This is a book about how relentless God is in His pursuit of us and how our responses change the church. Anyone is welcome to join in the corner room in the basement.

The Christmas Tree in Our Sanctuary This Sunday and throughout the Advent season we will admire the beauty of the Christmas tree once again poised in our sanctuary. Every year Paul Ruth goes to the effort of procuring the tree and transporting it to our worship space. We thank Paul for this lovely contribution which adds so much to our worship during the Advent and Christmas season.

New Deacons We are pleased to report that Maxi Ambriz and Dorothy Boldt have said "yes" to serving as deacons in our church. They will begin three-year terms in January.

Ken Seitz's Commentary Our former pastor Ken Seitz is writing a regular commentary/response to the weekly Sunday School lessons. You can find his reflections at www.mpn.net/abs. You can also read his first two commentaries in the current *Vox Simonis* on pages 14-15.

Mennonite Men's Chorus Men, mark your calendars for Saturday, January 30, 2010. The Mennonite Men's Chorus will have their kick-off barbecue at the Reedley MB Church. Registration starts at 4:00 p.m., dinner at 5:00 p.m. and singing starts at 6:00 p.m. Please call Paul Reimer (not our Paul!) at 285-3404 to registrar. Registration is \$25 prior to January 30 and \$30 if you pay at the door.

Treasurer's Report As of the end of November, our church income was behind expenses by \$12,000. That is much less of a deficit than any of the prior three years. We need about \$24,000, or an average of \$8,000 for each of the last 3 Sundays of the year, to meet our expected annual expenses.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 13, 2009

8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education Classes for all ages
10:45 a.m. English Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:45 a.m. Spanish Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Church in the Basement

Tuesday, December 15

6:15 a.m. Anabaptist Prayer Gathering
8:00 a.m. Quilting
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Quilting
9:30 a.m. Young Women's Group
7:00 p.m. Kids Club
7:00 p.m. MYF
7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Saturday, December 18

6:30 p.m. Peace Center

Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 20

8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education Classes for all ages
10:45 a.m. English Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:45 a.m. Spanish Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Dinner
6:00 p.m. Church in the Basement

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 21 Caroling at SVH at 6PM
Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service
Jan. 23, 2010 Bethel Banquet 6:30PM

**PRIMERA IGLESIA MENONITA
REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA**

Diciembre 13, 2009

10:45 am

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración

Memorice.

**Visión PIM: "Hacer Más Y Mejores Discípulos"
Vehículo de movilización "PESCA"**

"Vivimos para Cristo, nos hemos comprometido a hacer cualquier cosa que El desea."
J. Montes

Coordina Maxi Ambriz

Tiempo De Preparación

Bienvenida Lectura Bíblica / Oración de Inicio Coordinadora

Alabemos y adoremos Juntos

Canto de Alabanza	Grupo de Alabanza
Cantos de Celebración	Grupo de Alabanza
Diezmos y Ofrendas / Oración	Coordinadora
Cantos de Adoración	Grupo de Alabanza
Jr. Church (Salón11)	Alexis Sandoval

Oigamos la palabra de Dios

Lectura Bíblica I / Oración	
<i>Santiago 2:1-7</i>	Varones y Damas
Titulo Del Sermón	Juan Montes
<i>"Corazón limpio y transparente"</i>	
Testimonios / Peticiones / Anuncios	Pastor

**"Todos están convidados a gozarse con Dios en este ambiente familiar.
En esta congregación basada y segura en Jesucristo y la guía del
Espíritu Santo."**

- PARA ABRIR LA IGLESIA O ALGUNA EMERGENCIA CONTACTE A:
Sebastián Andrade (Diacono) 356-7640 (H) 356-7640 (c)
Juan Gómez (Sindico) 743-7005 - Maxi Ambriz 637-9067

Servicio de Alabanza, Oración y Entrenamiento Cristiano.

Miércoles Diciembre 16, 2009. 7:00PM . Horario: 6:30 – 7:15PM. Oración y Intercepción. 7:20-8:10PM. Alabanza. 8:15 – 9:00PM Academia De Entrenamiento De Liderazgo. y Ministerios. Talleres facilitadores. Taller #1. Líder laico asignado. Taller # 2. Pastor.

Jueves Diciembre 17, 2009. Academia de Liderazgo y Ministerios. 7:00 PM. Salón 5-6.. Entrenamiento para todos. Facilita el tema el pastor Montes. (***Si usted no asiste a ser taller lo suspenderemos por falta de compromiso.***)

Domingo Diciembre 20, 2009. Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración. Tema "El Es El Camino". Mateo 8:26-36. Coordina Jorge Romero.

Domingo Diciembre 20, 2009. "Red De Apoyo Matrimonial" Cena Formal. Santa Cena y Dinámica Matrimonial. 6:15PM.

Banco De Comida: ¿Qué es? Un ministerio que tiene como meta ayudar aquellas personas que tienen necesidad de alimentos y suplírselos. ¿Dónde está la bodega de almacenamiento? ¿A quienes ayuda este ministerio? Primeramente a los miembros de la iglesia, segundo a los vecinos de la comunidad. ¿Cómo puedo participar? Poseyendo alimentos, perdurables, tarjetas de comida de cualquier tienda de comida de la comunidad. ¿Personas encargadas? Diáconos.

Nota: Todos los miércoles de 12:00-12:45 PM. Enseño un estudio bíblico en el River Packing. 7:00-8:30 PM Oración Estudio Bíblico.

Viernes y sábados. 7:00 PM, Actividades variadas para jóvenes.

Sábados de 5:00-6:00 PM. Instalación del sistema de sonido.

6:00-9:00 PM. Ensayo del Grupo de Alabanza

Loa domingos de 9:30-10:30 AM Escuela De Capacitación Y Entrenamiento Dominical 10:45: 12:30 PM Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración.

Informe del Tesorero Desde el final de Noviembre, nuestros ingresos estaban por debajo de gastos en 12,000 dólares. Es mucho menos de un déficit que cualquiera de los tres años previos. Necesitamos aproximadamente 24,000 dólares, o un promedio de 8,000 dólares para cada uno de los 3 Domingos pasados del año para encontrar nuestros gastos anuales esperados.

