

Zion Mennonite Church

720 Park Street

Donnellson, IA 52626

Office Tel. 319-835-9420

www.ZionMennoniteDonnellson.org

Trusting in God's hope for our future, we meet God in rich and meaningful worship, nurture each generation to grow in faith, and serve the needs of others in love, here and around the world; as a beacon of God's love, we invite all people to join our family as we joyfully live together with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Let It Be Now

Focus Statement: We marvel at the vastness of God's plan. We celebrate in exuberant praise what God has done and will continue to do.

Prelude: Emmanuel (*McGee*)

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Carol: # 197 Angels We Have Heard On High (v 1,3,4)
195 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (v1,2,5)

Call to Worship

Leader: Yes! The invitation to carry Light comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

All: *O God, you choose to dwell within us. You promise to move about with us until we find our rest in you.*

Leader: Your call seems risky; saying yes takes away our breath.

All: *Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast love endure forever.*

Leader: You are our strength.

All: *Yes! Let it be now.*

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

Advent song: Light the Advent Candle

Hymn: # 194 Away in the Manger

Scripture: Psalm 89:1-4; Luke 2:4-7, 19-20

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

Mary's Memories

Hymn: # 189 To Us a Child of Hope

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the people

Offering: Mary's Little Boy Child (*Hairston*)

Offering Prayer

Sending Words:

May you go with God.

May you carry the grace of Christ fearlessly.

May the power of the Holy Spirit overshadow you,

and may you understand that nothing is impossible with God. Amen.

Hymn: #212 O Come All Ye Faithful

Postlude

Worship Participants

Pianist: Liz Howard

Worship Leader: Allison Krehbiel

Interim Pastor: Pam Unruh

Usher: Steve Krauter

Bulletin Cover Design: Morgan Krehbiel

*Stand if able

Calendar of Church Events

Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec 31 9:30 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship -- Carolyn Pundt

Jan 7 9:30 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship

Pam will NOT be in the office this week
(if needed; Pam's cell phone: 319-750-3091.)

Announcements

Please have all **Annual Reports** to Dennis Krehbiel by **January 15**

Mission Committee:

In the spirit of helping others, the Mission Committee will leave a box in the back of the church for the rest of the year for any donations of canned food items or paper goods to be delivered to the Food Pantry.

Crooked Creek Christian Camp:

Welcome Center funding is making progress on our dash with \$83,900 left to raise in cash or pledges. Thank you for your gifts! You can also give online at www.crookedcreekcamp.org/make-a-donation

Crooked Creek seeks a part-time Housekeeping Manager. Job description and application available at crookedcreekcamp.org

Explanation of the front visual:

The dark purple background represents rugged mountains beginning to tumble and break down. From Isaiah 64:1: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!"

The dark blue background indicates a tumbling mountain giving way to level ground. From Isaiah 40:4: "Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain." In the Foreground: a tree has sprouted roots and sent up green shoots. See Psalm 85:11-13: "Faithfulness sprigs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from the heaven..."

The violet is added to the background; trees appear on gently rolling hills. Isaiah 61:3: "They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor." In the foreground: leaves and buds appear on the growth. Psalm 126:6: "Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy."

Today, Red is added to the background to represent the message being proclaimed to all the nations. The foreground shows the plant producing flowers and fruit; the mystery of growth appears. From Romans 16:25-27: "Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith- to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."