

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, January 7, 2018

Christmas Sunday & Epiphany

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. Drawn by the light, we, like the magi, are sent forth in new directions. We are empowered to be God's illuminating presence in the world. Arise, shine, for the mystery of Christ has been revealed!

Prelude: A Christmas Medley (Mier)

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** #14 Come, we that love the Lord

*Call to Worship

Leader: Yes! The light is here. We carry it within us.

All: *It is the star of the East; it is the morning sun.*

Leader: It is as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

All: *Praise the Lord!*

Leader: You, O God, have caused the mountains to shake. You have torn open the heavens, and your glory reaches the earth.

All: *May we, like the magi, seek you until we find you. May we offer our gifts in your presence, no matter where you are found.*

Leader: Yes! Let your mystery be declared.

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

Advent song: Light the Advent Candle v. 5

Hymn: #340 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12; John 1:1-5

Message: The Gift

Carolyn Pundt

Hymn: #208 Love Came Down at Christmas

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Confession

O God, your light has come, your glory risen, and your brightness dawned, illuminating not only the way of the magi, but all our paths.

From your fullness we have received grace upon grace as your mystery has been revealed and your presence made known. Now we too are called to arise, shine, and return by another road. Yet we confess that instead of lifting our eyes and searching diligently, instead of walking with boldness and confidence, instead of revealing and proclaiming your presence, we cling to what we have and know, and we continue on our old, familiar ways home. We are frightened by the unknown, and by the darkness that covers the earth. Forgive us.

Words of assurance

O God, Emmanuel,
in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored. Amen

Offering: Let There Be Peace on Earth (Miller/Jackson)

***Doxology:** #119

***Sending Words:**

May you go with the light. May you defend the cause of the poor and give deliverance to the needy. May you be like the rain that falls on mown grass and like showers that water the earth. May righteousness flourish and peace abound until the sun and moon are no more. Amen.

***Hymn:** #427 You Shall Go Out with Joy

Postlude

Worship Participants

Pianist: Donna Vogel

Worship Leader: Allison Krehbiel

Interim Pastor: Pam Unruh

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Pundt

Usher:

*Stand if able

Calendar of Church Events

Jan 14	9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship
Jan 21	9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship
Jan 28	9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Potluck & Annual Meeting

Pam will be in the office Wednesday 1:00-5:00pm & Thursday from 10:30-4:00pm. Pam's cell phone: 319-750-3091.

Come let us
Adore
Him



Epiphany
Sunday

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Announcements

Congrats to Pam & Lowell Unruh on the birth of their first grandchild. Verdene (Dena) Joy Walker Unruh. She was born at 12:42 pm on January 4th, 2018, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. and 20 1/4 inches long! All are doing well.

Please have all **Annual Reports** to Dennis Krehbiel by **Jan. 15**

The **Annual Meeting** will be on January 28th following worship. There will be a potluck followed by the Annual Meeting. The Zion Mennonite Cemetery will have their meeting following.

After today's service, the decorations in the sanctuary are coming down. If you are able to stay and help for a few minutes, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Worship Committee.

Crooked Creek Christian Camp:

WINTERFEST camp is next weekend January 12-14...and WE HAVE SNOW! If you haven't registered yet please register TODAY! (Register online or by asking your youth sponsor.)

Coins for Camp January will go towards a new play structure near the Pavilion.

SAVE THE DATE: May 5, 2018, is Crooked Creek Wild mud run-obstacle course. Registration coming soon!

THANK YOU for the ways you bless the ongoing ministry at Crooked Creek Christian Camp! Your involvement is the reason camp is a successful ministry providing opportunities for children and adults to experience Christ in new and different ways through retreats and the great outdoors!

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."

The 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."

The orange is added to the background. Psalm 148:1, 9: "Praise the Lord! Praise the lord from the heavens; your mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!" There are ripe fruit in the foreground. Isaiah 61:11: "For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations."

Today, we added the Yellow background that represents the dawn. Isaiah 60:1-3: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." A basket of ripe fruit is in the foreground.