

Rainbow Mennonite Church



The Growth
of God

Name

Abigail Brittmann

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
TRUE TREASURES

PRELUDE

Carol Buller, Accompanist

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

Kindergarten-2nd grade Sunday school class
Emma Janzen and Rosi Penner Kaufman

GREETING AND INVOCATION

Rodney Kliewer, Worship Leader

L: Creator and still creating God, your creation sings of your greatness.

C: Mighty One, your presence is our shield and our home.

L: Friend of the poor, caller of the rich, your justice frees those bound and liberates the imprisoned. Peace for the frightened, healing for the wounded, you are the Lord of laughter, Lord of tears.

C: Trustworthy and true, hope of the world, you are Lord of the struggle, source of our strength.

All: May we know and share your great treasures, that your will may be done and your glory be known.

*HYMN SJ#16

Praise with joy the world's Creator

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Comfort, comfort

Isaiah 40:1-11

arr. Ferguson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

CONFESSION

L: We long for wholeness. We hope for joy. Sometimes both seem to elude us.

C: The deserts sometimes appear to be expanding and at times we feel lost in the wastelands.

(Continued on next page)

- L: Other times, peace and joy surprise us; they rekindle our hope that things will indeed come to flower.
- C: Today we come with our personal pains and joys—some of which we share with others and some of which we hardly dare to mention.**
- L: Let us be silent and then let us pray, listen, and speak with God who knows us, loves us, and is with us. (*silent prayer*)

SERMON

Leveling the playing field

COMMUNION SERVICE

- Words of Institution and Invitation
- Sharing Bread and Cup
Please come forward by the center aisle, take the bread and dip it in the cup of juice. Return by the side aisle. To receive a blessing in lieu of partaking in the bread and cup, please present yourself with hands folded. Gluten free crackers and grapes are also available.
- Communion Hymn #172 *O come, O come, Immanuel*
- Hymn of Response #118 *Praise God from whom*

COMMUNITY BUILDING TIME

- Anticipating Christmas
Children and WorshipArts participants will be invited to treasure the arrival of Jesus into the world by adding something to the crèche at the front of the sanctuary. As they come forward with angels today, we will sing # 197 Angels we have heard on high
- Introductions
We are glad you are here. Once the attendance register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.
- Joys and Concerns
Slips of paper are available in the attendance register for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl at the front of the sanctuary.
- Prayers of the People
- Announcements
- Offering

*HYMN #174

Bless'd be the God of Israel

***SENDING FORTH**

L: Savior God, through your grace we hold a treasure in earthen vessels:
the living presence of Jesus Christ.

C: **Let us bear your good news with joy till grace overflows in the earth.**

All: *For yours is the power and yours the glory, now and forever. Amen.*

***POSTLUDE**

* Please stand as you are able.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated “SJ” are in the green *Sing the Journey* hymnal.

About the **worship bulletin covers**: For the last few weeks in WorshipArts we've been doing Zentangles, which might be described as “mindful doodling.” While we work on designs and patterns, we talk about what we've experienced during the worship service. Some of the bulletins are a collaborative effort – we asked the jr. high class to illustrate words they associate with Advent and Christmas inside the box, then the WorshipArts kids “tangled” around them. Ask one of our young worshippers about the project. They can tell you more.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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Office hours: M 9am-2pm, T-Th 9am-3:30pm, F 9am-2pm

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Pastor: Ruth Harder

Music Ministries Director: Roseann Penner Kaufman

Community Service Coordinator: Rachel Hostetler

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Youth Program Director: Renee Reimer