

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DECEMBER 27, 2015

PRELUDE

Nancy Bosché, Accompanist

WELCOME

Jan Good-Bollinger, Worship Leader

*GATHERING HYMNS

#210

Good Christian friends, rejoice (stanzas 1-2)

#201

Hark! the herald angels sing

*CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 148: 1-2, 7, 12-13a

L: Praise God! Praise God from the heavens; Praise God in the heights!

C: Praise God, all God's angels; praise God, all God's host!

L: Praise God from the earth, you water spouts and ocean depths;
young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: *Let them praise the name of God for God's name alone is exalted!*

*HYMN #197

Angels we have heard on high (stanzas 1, 3 and 4)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mike Horner

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

HYMN STS #28

Holy Child within the manger

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Ruth Harder

SONG

The New Colossus
Jesse Graber, guitar

COMMUNITY BUILDING TIME

INTRODUCTIONS

We are glad you are here. Once the friendship register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING JOY

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Mysterious Spirit of compassion,
even as we celebrate the new birth
of hope in our midst,
we remember those for whom hope remains elusive.

**We pray for those who know the darkness of depression,
for those who lie wakeful through the long hours of night,
for those whose bodies are gripped in pain.**

We pray for those who watch for morning,
for those who live in fear,
for those whose bellies are never full.

**We pray for those who have too much,
for those who have power over others,
for those who do not think that they need anyone's prayers.**

And we pray for ourselves,
that we may become the Body of Christ for the world.

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SENDING FORTH

L: When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the magi and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas begins:

**All: To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above,
to free the prisoner from all chains
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations
with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!*****

*HYMN #318

Joy to the world

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand as you are able.

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

Songs designated "STS" are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

***Calling on God: inclusive Christmas prayers of three years of Sundays* by Bankson and Sokolove.

***Jim Strathdee, in response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Joy to the world and joy to Rainbow!

We the staff at Rainbow wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

We pray that in this New Year we might all glimpse the dawning of peace as we seek to fulfill our vision: *To create a community of awakening and discovery, where the joys and challenges of Christian living are made accessible and relevant to contemporary life.*

-Rosi, Rachel, Ruth, Ashton, Renee, and Scott



Office hours this week: M-W 9am-2pm, closed Thursday and Friday

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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