

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Janelle Arnett Campbell, Accompanist

GATHERING HYMNS

#182 *Oh, how shall I receive thee*

*#318 *Joy to the world*

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Christian Buller and Andrew Moore, Worship Leaders

One: Surely God is our Salvation!

Trust in God. Do not be afraid. For God is our Strength and Song.

Give thanksgiving to God! Call upon God's name!

Make known God's deeds among all nations—proclaim the Power of God.

All: *Sing praises to God for all the marvelous things—
let them be known in all the earth.*

One: Sing and shout for Joy, O People of God!

For great in our midst lives the Holy One of God.

Today we light three candles: for hope, for peace, and for joy trusting that we are not alone in the long struggle for freedom, for peace, and for justice.

All: *Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

HYMN #15 SS

Hope is a candle

St. 1, 2, and 4 soloists

Melissa Funk and Liberty Brigman

St. 5 congregation

STORYTELLING

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Gritman

WORSHIPARTS CHOIR *Stars are for those who lift their eyes* Delmonte
See text on back of bulletin

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10 and Luke 1:46-55

HYMN #181

My soul proclaims with wonder

SERMON

Making a way out of no way

*HYMN SS #124

My soul cries out

Stanzas 1-2 sung by David Stewart; Stanzas 3-4 and refrain sung by all

COMMUNITY BUILDING

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

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.

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

*HYMN #184

Hark! The glad sound!

At this time, we invite 6-12th grade youth to begin setting up for the peppernut fundraiser in Fellowship Hall. There will be no WorshipArts today due to other activities scheduled.

*SENDING FORTH

One: Giver of song, we give thanks for songs that surround us in the dark of night, and for songs that waken us when morning breaks.

All: *Give a song to all who need the comfort and reassurance of your presence: those in trouble or in pain, those oppressed and abused, those overwhelmed by the demands of work, and those whose past destroys their peace. Giver of song, sing through us and bring your world to joy.*

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand as you are able.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.
Songs designated “SS” are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

Anthem text:

Stars are for those who lift their eyes. We stand on a cloudless night
And look up at a million, million stars, so distant and so bright.

I wonder if that shining night, the night of Jesus’ birth
The stars sang with the angels above the sleeping earth.
The shepherds heard, near Bethlehem, the heav’nly host proclaim
The wonder of His coming and the power of His name!

If stormy clouds should hide the stars, no fearful thought is mine.
Far beyond all earthly storms, the stars, the heavenly stars still shine.

Stars are for those who lift their eyes.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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