



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2016

*All those who detect a coming dawn; a reason to go on.  
They seem small, these signs of dawn, perhaps ridiculous.*

*All those who...*

*Uncover in the night  
A certain gleam of light;  
They see the reason to go on.*

*-Dom Hélder Câmara*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

Rosi Penner Kaufman, Accompanist

GATHERING HYMNS

\*#197 *Angels we have heard on high*

\*#195 *It came upon a midnight clear*

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Christian Buller and Michael Ghaly, Worship Leaders

One: As we light these Advent candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love, we remember:

**All:** *An angel came to Joseph and said:  
Do not be afraid! A baby will soon be born.  
He will do great things.  
He will teach us to love one another.  
He will heal the sick and feed the hungry.  
He will speak truth to power.  
He will bring down walls of fear and systems of oppression.  
He will love the world to the end.*

One: An angel came to say “Jesus is coming, do not be afraid!”  
And all the people said:

**All:** *Come, Lord Jesus! Come to set your people free!*

HYMN #15 SS

St. 1-4 solo

St. 5 congregation

*Hope is a candle*

Melissa Funk and Liberty Brigman

## STORYTELLING

CHILDREN’S TIME

Mike Horner

WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE

*Peace, Peace*

Arr. Fred Bock

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

*The holy, fragile family*

HYMN SS #26 and HWB #215

*Helpless and hungry/What child is this  
Helpless and hungry, v. 1, followed by What child is this, v. 1;  
Both sung simultaneously on vs. 2 and 3*

## 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: A LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT (see insert)

*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 #208

*Love came down at Christmas*



*Children in K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed for WorshipArts (Room 114), a time for children to respond to worship, ask questions and learn more about the language, ritual, movement, sound and art incorporated in worship.*

BENEDICTION

Heidi Regier Kreider  
Western District Conference Minister

Please be seated for the Benediction and remain seated for the Postlude.

## 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.

The Women’s Ensemble is accompanied by Nancy Bosche. Those who have participated this season are Maddie Bollinger, Liberty Brigman, Emma Campbell, Abigail Grittman, Kennedy Kaufman, Eva Parsons, Mia Roman, Tess Roman, Hannah Schrag, Larissa Schrag, and Brianna Yoder.

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## RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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