



**DECEMBER 2, 2018  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Worship 9:30am**

**Sunday School 10:50am**

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**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

PRELUDE

Carol Buller, organist

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Duane Graber, worship leader

\*HYMN #176

*Comfort, comfort O my people*

*Lighting the Advent sculpture today are the members of Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit: Sarah Tomas Morgan, Eba Goshu, and Hanna Hochstetler. Their work brings hope to our community.*

**WE LISTEN AND LEARN**

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Ruth Harder

HYMN #28 SS

*Holy Child within the manger*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40; Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 21: 25-36

SERMON

*Beginning again*

**WE ARE INVITED TO THE TABLE**

ANTHEM

*Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*

Stopford

## WORDS OF BLESSING AND INVITATION

### SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Singing during communion: #463

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

*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.*

Hymn of response: #178

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*

## WE RESPOND AND SHARE

### 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 pew racks 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 table at the front of the sanctuary.*

### OFFERING

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you did not have time to submit a written announcement, or if something new needs highlighting, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.*



*Children in K-5grades 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.*

*6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade women are also dismissed for women's ensemble rehearsal in room 111.*

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH HOPE

### \*SENDING FORTH

L: God of Advent, in the darkest days and nights of the year, our hearts turn toward your promised light.

**C: *Lead us in your light.***

L: With the first faint glimmer of a single candle dancing into the light of many bright flames, our hope is ignited once more.

**C: *Lead us in your light.***

L: In these Advent days, lead us in your light to a manger where the face of God shines bright and clear.

***ALL: Amen.***

### \*HYMN #184

*Hark! The glad sound!*

### \*POSTLUDE

*Please remain standing for the postlude.*

\* Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Songs designated “SS” are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

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## RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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Office hours: M-F 9am-4pm

[www.rainbowmennonite.org](http://www.rainbowmennonite.org)

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## Who will come?

During recent weeks, the WorshipArts children have been privileged to watch their ideas unfold as resident artist Jesse Graber spontaneously draws the images the children convey as they share their observations and responses to concepts inspired by the morning's worship service. This year's Advent bulletin covers are the result of one such collaboration. In preparation for starting our work on the upcoming Christmas program titled "Who Will Come to Bethlehem?", we pondered several questions - beginning with, "If Jesus were born today who, like the shepherds and wisemen in the Bible story, would come to see Him?"

"Me!"

"All of us - Rainbow people" ("Except me," said one child who elaborated, "How would we even know he is real?")

"animals - maybe farm animals, a duck"

"fancy people"

"people from somewhere else - not just America"

"kids"

"pastors"

"God - (might be kind of like a ghost)"

"family - like Mary and Joseph's sisters and brothers and aunts and uncles"

"Christians and Jews - people who believe in God"

As you peruse the children's responses above, we invite you to also ponder with us on this first Sunday of Advent. Who is seeking hope today? Who will come to Bethlehem?