



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Worship 9:30am

No Sunday School

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Emory Penner, Coen Linscheid, Adam Linscheid, Sophie Jantzen, Alex Jantzen, Jesse Graber, Jon Wiebe, Naomi Wiebe, Stefan Mathis, Nick Schroeder, Natasha VanDyke, Emma Campbell, Karen Hostetler

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Sallie Page-Goertz, worship leader

*HYMN #208

Love came down at Christmas

*Lighting the Advent sculpture** today are Phil and Marsha Rhoads. Phil is active with the Peace and Justice Committee, and Marsha is a Rainbow Deacon. They remind us of the many ways love is shown both beyond and within our congregation.*

WE LISTEN AND LEARN

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Sallie Page-Goertz

HYMN #195

It came upon a midnight clear

St. 1, 2 all

St. 3 Nick Schroeder, solo

St. 4, 5 all

ANTHEM	<i>People, look east!</i>	French melody, harm. Shaw
SCRIPTURE		Luke 2:1-7
HYMN #206		<i>Infant holy, infant lowly</i>
SCRIPTURE		Luke 2:8-20
*HYMN #199		<i>The first Noel</i>
SERMON		<i>Born into poverty's embrace</i>
HYMN #215 (west side and balcony) #26 SS (east side and Wesley Room) As directed		<i>What Child is this Helpless and hungry</i>

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

SABBATICAL SEND-OFF AND BLESSING (see insert)

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.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

*SENDING FORTH

L: God's long-awaited promise is about to be fulfilled!

C: *Rejoice in his name! Emmanuel, God be with us!*

L: The little baby in the manger, he will be the Savior of this hurting world.

C: *Bringing us new life, filled with hope, peace, joy, and love, calling us to faith and action.*

All: *Praise be to God, Alleluia! Amen!*

*HYMN #210

Hark! the herald angels sing

*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.

The light sculpture at the front of the sanctuary was created by Arlie Regier and his son Paul. We have cherished the long tradition of featuring this gift during Advent.

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 (see image at top of bulletin). This year's Advent bulletin covers are the result of one such collaboration.

In preparation for starting our work on the Christmas program titled "Who Will Come to Bethlehem?", we pondered several questions. On this final Sunday of Advent, may we seek love together as we ask anew. . .What will we find in Bethlehem.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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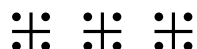
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Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who continues to make Rainbow the beautiful place it is. We look forward to another year of seeking the peace of the city alongside all of you as we worship, serve, and learn together.

-Mark, Ben, Terry, Carrie, Rosi, and Ruth