

Advent 4: Love
December 24, 2023
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Join us for our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6:30 pm!

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Rosi Penner Kaufman, organist

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Janice Friesen, worship leader

Unison: **We will sing of your great love now and ever;
With our voices we will declare your faithfulness.
In your promise we are formed, in your covenant restored,
O bless the Lord forever, Amen.** (adapted from Psalm 89)

*Welcoming one another: *May the light of love shine.*

*COMMUNAL BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

As we sing, volunteers please come forward.

VT 255 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

VT 239 *He Came Down*

Sophie Jantzen, xylophone; David Stewart and Nancy Bosché, percussion

VT 238 *Wisdom from on High is Dawning*

Mitch Kaufman, sakbut; Rosi Penner Kaufman, bells

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

WE WONDER AND LEARN

MOMENT OF WONDER/ADVENT ARRIVALS

Sara Mwangura

CAROL VT 249

Angels we have heard on high

ADVENT TRAVELING THEN-AND-NOW REFLECTIONS

Ruth Harder

VT 205 st. 1, *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Karen Bradley

VT 205 st. 2

Johan Tredoux

VT 205 st. 3

Eric Jantzen

VT 254 st. 1,2 English *Oh, How Joyfully*

Beatrix Amstutz

VT 254 st. 1,2 German

Duane Krehbiel

*VT 216 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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. As we share our joys and concerns, please be mindful of those gathered remotely.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING FOR AND WITH BETHLEHEM

Hymns as directed VT 267 *What Child is This*

VT 268 *Helpless and Hungry*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

*CAROLS VT 258

Love has come

*SENDING FORTH

*POSTLUDE

*You are invited to stand

Welcome to our Christmas Eve morning service. At Rainbow, we strive to welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. For information about our church or the Mennonite faith, literature is available in the east and west foyers outside the sanctuary.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

- We at Rainbow Mennonite Church acknowledge the land we gather on is the ancestral and treaty homeland of the Kaw/Kansa and Osage Nations.
- We acknowledge the land was taken from these Peoples by force.
- We acknowledge as many as 30 Nations, including the Shawnee, Delaware, Cherokee, Iowa, Kickapoo, Lanape, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Sac & Fox, and Wyandot, were forcibly relocated to Kansas before the US government violated the treaties and violently compelled them to move further west.
- We acknowledge that the Christian church was, and is, complicit in justifying this theft and participated in the cultural genocide of these Nations.
- We acknowledge that these Peoples are still here and that recognizing their deep historic connection to the land is the first step towards building right relationships with them and working together to create a more just society.



Scan the QR code above to see the commissioned art piece by Tokeya Waci U Richardson.
You may see it in person by going down to the Fellowship Hall.

Announcements

Tonight: evening candlelight service at 6:30 pm with special offering for Deacons' Fund

Sun., Dec. 31 New Years Eve Day: worship service at 10:30 am with no second hour. Please bring your leftover Christmas goodies to share during fellowship time!

Our Rainbow nursery will be open and staffed this morning, as well as this evening.

Stewardship Update: We are forecasting Rainbow will require a minimum of **\$13,250** in order to break even at the end of 2023. This is an average of \$6,625 per Sunday for the last two weeks of the year. Please keep church finances in mind as we head toward the end of our business year. Thank you. Scan the QR code to the right to give online.



Due to the holidays and vacation schedules, please note the following changes.

- The Church office will be closed next week, with various people checking in on the building and picking up mail throughout the week.
- The Rainbow Choir will take a short break with no rehearsal on December 20 or 27. We'll resume our regular schedule on January 3.
- The Monday evening Bible study group will take a short hiatus. We will resume Monday, January 8 at 5 pm.

ANNUAL REPORTS! Attention committee chairs, RMC Church Council officers: please submit annual reports to the church office no later than Monday, January 8, 2024. It's crucial that we give Church Administrator Sarah Unruh enough time to compile and format all the reports prior to our annual meeting, which is scheduled for February 4, 2024.

On December 19th, Mennonites in at least 40 regions across the US and Canada — from Winnipeg to Mississippi — took peaceful action for a ceasefire in Gaza. You can read more about this movement here: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/>

For our part in Kansas City, 27 people connected with Rainbow peacefully occupied Senator Jerry Moran's office in Olathe (R-KS), singing hymns and calling on him to support a permanent ceasefire now. The group left Senator Moran a letter and a plate of cookies, both urging him to support a ceasefire in Gaza. A small delegation then went on to Senator Josh Hawley's (R-MO) office with a similar message. You can read more about the KC action here: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/day-of-action/kansas-city-kansas>

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

1444 Southwest Boulevard
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Note: the office will be closed the week after Christmas.

www.rainbowmennonite.org

Pastor: Ruth Harder (ruthh@rainbowmennonite.org) Day off is Friday

Minister of Worship and Music: Roseann Penner Kaufman (rpkaufman@rainbowmennonite.org)

Interim Children's Faith Formation Director: Sara Mwagura (children@rainbowmennonite.org)

Interim Youth Faith Formation Director: Dustin Fish (youth@rainbowmennonite.org)

Church Administrator: Sarah Unruh (office@rainbowmennonite.org)

Maintenance Facilitator: Gary Long (maintenance@rainbowmennonite.org)

Custodian: Elizabeth Cruz (Tuesdays and Fridays)