

December 31, 2023

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Fellowship Time 11:30 am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Karla Leuenberg, pianist

Hark the Herald Angels arr. Berry

Rise Up, Shepherds Blues McDonald

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light arr. Berry

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Rosi Penner Kaufman, worship leader

*HYMN VT 240

Joy to the World

WE LISTEN AND LEARN

MOMENT OF WONDER

Ruth Harder

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-40

HYMN VT 259

To Us a Child of Hope is Born

SERMON

Looking forward

*HYMN VT 273

Arise, Your Light is Come!

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 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

Offertory: *How Great Our Joy* McDonald

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

*HYMN VT 252

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*SENDING FORTH

*POSTLUDE *He Is Born* arr. Jarrell

*You are invited to stand

Welcome to our 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

Our Rainbow nursery is open and staffed this morning. Please ask an usher or greeter for location.

Stewardship Update: We are forecasting Rainbow will require a minimum of **\$16,000** in order to break even at the end of 2023.

Scan the QR code to the right to give online. Thank you!



Due to the New Year's Day holiday, the Monday evening Bible study will resume Monday, January 8 at 5 pm.

Caring notes

- Please remember in prayer the Bollinger-Good family (Jan, Jonathan, Madeline, Joel and Markus). Jan's dad, Carl Good, passed away unexpectedly this past Friday.
- John and Pat Bertsche moved to Aberdeen Village Assisted Living (in KC) on Friday, December 29. They would love to have visitors-just give them a call at 913.748.1689! An estate sale will be planned in the next few months.

Coming up this week

Join us for our First Wednesday of the month Menno nites and bites gathering at 6:15pm! This monthly Wednesday gathering is coordinated by the Deacons with hope that it gives more connecting/meal sharing opportunities. Choir rehearsal will also resume this coming Wednesday, January 3.

Children, ages 3-12, are invited to a **Bible Exploration Day on Saturday, January 27th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** This day will include Bible stories, Art, Games, Music, and a lunch at 11:30.

Please register at the following link: [January 27 Bible Exploration Day Registration](#).

*Any adults interested in helping can email children@rainbowmennonite.org

Peace and Social Justice/Menno Action calling for Ceasefire in Gaza

The Rainbow Peace and Social Justice Committee invites anyone interested to join a [mass organizing call](#) on January 4 at 7:15 pm. Go to the following website to learn more: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/call>

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.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

1444 Southwest Boulevard
Kansas City, KS 66103
(913) 236-8820

Office hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9:00-4:30pm
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 Mwangura (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)