



Osler Mennonite Church

*A Welcoming Community for Peace
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation*

December 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

OMC Christmas Candlelight Service

Prelude

Hymn: VT #241 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Welcome/Announcements - Patty

Scripture tonight is taken from Isaiah *and* from Matthew and Luke’s accounts of the birth of Jesus.

Prayer – Luke

Patty - Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

Luke - Isaiah 35:5,6 “Blind eyes will be opened, deaf ears unstopped, Lame men and women will leap like deer, the voiceless break into song. Springs of water will burst out in the wilderness, streams flow in the desert. Hot sands will become a cool oasis, thirsty ground a splashing fountain, and barren grasslands flourish richly.”

Patty - Isaiah 11:6 ...the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them...”

Hymns: VT #510 “Today Earth is Singing / Away in a Manger”
VT #237 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Luke - Matthew 1: 18-25

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man

and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. When her son was born, Joseph named him Jesus.

Hymn: VT #218 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Patty - Luke 2 - The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to their own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son.

Lighting of the Christ Candle – Luke

Patty - and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: VT #243 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Luke- Isaiah 9:6-7“ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder”

Patty- *Matthew 1:20* And they called his name Jesus.

Luke- *Isaiah 9:6-7 cont’d*“ And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

Hymn: VT #259 “To Us a Child of Hope is Born”

Patty - *Luke 2* - The Shepherds and the Angels

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom the Holy One is pleased!"

Hymns: VT #249 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
 VT #252 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Luke - When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Hymns: VT #267 "What Child Is This"
 VT #244 "Silent Night"

Patty - And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary (and Joseph) treasured up all these things, pondering them in their hearts. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Benediction: Go in celebration for we are people who say yes to the manger, yes to the One incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God. Go in peace.

For Your Information

***There is a Giving Box in the foyer for our Christmas Project** – all donations will go to the Friendship Inn for their various programs.

*There will be **no service at OMC** on Sunday, December 25.

*No 10:00 am service on January 1 **BUT** please come at 4:00 pm for a short service of stories and songs followed by Pot Luck Fasha and games.

***Join us in person or on-line at 10:00 a.m., January 8th for Communion and Baptism** during our first worship service of 2023.



Announcements

Prayers: Condolences to the Guenther family at the death of Marilyn (sister-in-law to Cornie and Joe).

From the treasurer: Cheques dated 2022 will be counted for the 2022 fiscal year. Electronic payments received after Dec 31 until Jan 7 can be counted towards the 2022 fiscal year if you include a note saying you wanted it added to the 2022 fiscal year.

The OMC staff wishes you all a Blessed Christmas.