



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 31, 2023

*First Sunday of Christmas
Christ Born into Community*

Prelude

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement/Announcements

Call to Worship

L: We gather in preparation,

C: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

L: We gather in expectation,

C: for joy is about to break forth in our midst.

L: We gather in celebration,

C: for we are the people who say yes to the manger, yes to the One incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.

All: In preparation and expectation, let us celebrate!

Prayer of Invocation

**Gathering Hymns: VT #245
VT #247**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:5-9.

Thus says God, the Holy One, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am El Shaddai, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See,

the former things have come to pass and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Children's Gathering Song VT #211 Hope Is a Candle vs 1- 4
Lighting of Advent Candle and Story for All Ages: Kathy

Offering / Offering prayer / Music for Meditation
Sharing of Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Prayers – many health concerns

Praise & Thanks – for the many people who joined us for the
Christmas Eve service (149)

Hymn VT #252 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven

years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VT #248 It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Sermon: Christ Born into Community

Hymn: VT #259 To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

Communion Service:

L: I bring you good news of great joy: a Saviour has been born into community for you. Alleluia.

C: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

L: He is Christ the Lord. We worship and adore him. Alleluia. Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.’

C: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Help us to hear your call on our lives.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Give us courage to give up all to follow you.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Help us to seek you with our whole hearts and lives.

L: May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us close that we may behold the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: The Word was made flesh and lived among us: and we have seen his glory.

Distribution of Bread: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body. (*Eat together*).

Distribution of Cup: We share in this cup of life for the nourishment of our souls in Christ. (*Drink together*).

All: Child of Mary, Child of God, we have joined the worship of the angels; may we never lose that heavenly vision.

Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news of your birth; help us to proclaim that message in word and deed, to your praise and glory.

Amen.

Hymn: VT #254 O du fröhliche

Benediction: Jesus, your coming is still miraculous. That you join the family of the poor and displaced still boggles and convicts us. Keep us by your manger until we learn the way of love. Amen.

Right after the service: Borscht and New Years' cookies in the Multipurpose room. All are welcome.

*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com

TODAY'S WORSHIP December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Dave Feick

Song Leader: Kevin Accompanist: Melanie

Story Time: Kathy Sound: Benjamin Ushers: Lanae/Carl

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Wednesday and Friday

Pickle ball Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Patty's Week: Wed. office; Fri office & Bethany Manor

Luke's Week:

Birthdays: Dec 31 – Linda Stucky & Adam Boldt; Jan 4 – Brandee Borne

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Jan 7 ???

New Year's Resolution suggestion – why not resolve to sign up to bring snacks for Coffee Time? You can tag-team – ask a friend to help; purchase snacks and ask someone else to make the coffee and clean up.

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Vol. LXX

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No. 52

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We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Métis