

Welcome to worship. We are happy you chose to come today. Feel free to join us as we pray, sing, and listen to God speak. We hope that all will sense God's spirit among us and will be eager to return and worship here again.

Our weekly newsletter gives information and announcements about our congregation. Newsletters are on the tables near the north and west entrances to the building.

Children are welcome to pick up a worship bag at the entrances of the sanctuary. Please return the bag and contents after the service.

The children's classes will gather following this service in the basement for Sunday School. All adults are invited to a fellowship time in the fellowship area after the worship service. Following that, we hope you choose to attend one of the Sunday School classes that meets in the Fellowship Hall.

The lantern in the front of the church is in loving memory of Richard Nafziger who passed away 14 years ago, on December 27th. Provided by Sara, Doug and Michele.

WORSHIP WORKERS

Worship Leader: Jackie Lehman, Kathy Beck, Denver Beck

Song Leader: Joyce Yoder

Ushers: Max Aeschliman, Jerry & Ladonna Andres, Greg Short, Cal Britsch, Mike Zimmerman

Greeters: Steve & Karen Ringenberg, Neil & Kathy Nofziger

Next week: Duane & Barb Short, Ed Yoder

Nursery: Phil & Lynette Bontrager **SS:** No Sunday School

Next week: Mary & Ned Gisel **SS:** Cara & Frank Ulrich

ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

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Collaborative Ministry Team:

Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg

Corben Weaver Boshart

Sue Short

Administrative Assistant: Bethany Stuckey



Zion Mennonite Church

December 24, 2017

Advent 4 – "Let it Be Whole"

Prelude Karen Stuckey

Welcome and announcements

Interlude Karen Stuckey

Wisdom and Wonder

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call to Worship

L: Yes!
The invitation to carry Light
Comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

P: **O God, You choose to dwell within us.
You promise to move about with us
Until we find our rest in you.**

L: Your call seems risky;
Saying yes takes away our breath.

P: **Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast love
Endure forever.**

L: You are our strength

ALL: *Yes! Let it be now.*

Opening Prayer

Hymns "O Come All Ye Faithful" HWB 212
"The First Noel" HWB 199

Offering and Offertory Karen Stuckey

Hymn "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" HWB 192

Children's Time Jackie Lehman & Galen Plank

Hymn "Away in the Manger" MH 472

Scripture Matthew 2:1-2, 9-9d

Isaiah 9:1-7

Sermon "God's Light Shines Through the Darkness"

Corben Weaver Boshart

Response "To us a Child of Hope is Born" HWB 189

Confession

O God of blessing and joy,
Your favor rests upon us, and our souls magnify you.
We sing of your steadfast love
And proclaim your faithfulness.
We confess we often lack complete trust,
Walking in our own strength,
Building our own houses
Instead of joining you
In turning ruins into abundance.
We are terrified and overcome by fear,
Wondering, "How will we know?"
And pondering, "How can this be?"
We are afraid to claim and proclaim
That nothing is impossible
When your power overshadows us,
When your Spirit comes upon us.
We find it hard to let go and say,
"Here I am, the servant of the Lord;
Let it be with me according to your Word."
Forgive us.

(pause for silence)

Words of assurance

O God, Emmanuel,
In Jesus Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

Prayer for the Church and World Corben Weaver Boshart

Benediction

Sending Song "Angels we Have Heard on High" vs 1,3 HWB 197
