

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.

WORSHIP WORKERS

Worship Leader: Jackie Lehman

Song Leader: Joyce Yoder

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

Greeters: Duane & Barb Short, Ed Yoder

Next week: Lavon & Linda Short, Ilva King, Fern Schrock

Nursery: Mary & Ned Gisel **SS:** Cara & Frank Ulrich

Next week: Tim & Carrie Grieser **SS:** Stan & Sue Short

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 31, 2017

Christmas – "Let it Be New"

Prelude	Bonnie Stuckey
Welcome and announcements	Jackie Lehman
Interlude	Bonnie Stuckey
Wisdom and Wonder	
Lighting of the Advent Candle	
Call to Worship	
L: Yes!	
	We will give thanks and rejoice!
P: We will praise the Lord from the Heavens From the heights, and with the angels!	
L: We praise the Lord with the sun and moon! We praise the Creator of the shining stars!	
P: Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!	
L: Young men and women alike! Children and the aged ones too! Let us praise the name of the Lord	
<i>ALL: Praise the Lord</i>	
L: Yes! Let all things be new.	
Opening Prayer	
Hymns "Worship the Lord in the Beauty" "Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah"	HWB 220 HWB 50
Scripture	Psalm 148
Offering and Offertory	Bonnie Stuckey
Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"	HWB 210
Children's Time	Jackie Lehman & Galen Plank
Scripture	Galatians 4:4-7
Sermon "Yes! Let it be new – Praise the Lord"	Mike Zimmerman

Confession

O God, the waiting is over, the time has come:

You dwell among us!

We marvel at the mystery of your birth.

We are filled and guided by the Spirit as you open our eyes, our hearts, and our arms to receive you.

Yes, we say, and yet we confess that instead of being drawn beyond our knowing, into the call of your infinite light, we examine your coming within the boundaries of our understanding.

We confess that

Instead of marveling at the vastness of your mercy,

Instead of rejoicing with Simeon and Anna,

Instead of allowing your Spirit to move within and among us, we resist the mystery of your presence.

We confess our struggle to step forth with vulnerability, honesty, courage, dreams, hope, and celebration emanating from the depth of our hearts.

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

Sue Short

Hymn "Gloria"

HWB 204

Benediction

Mike Zimmerman

Sending Song "He Came Down"

STJ 31
