

WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH

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December 12 , 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Dare to imagine God's song!

Singing together causes great joy and jubilation. But, even more, our hearts exult and swell as we imagine God singing over us.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship Ross Shantz

(adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.

God is in our midst.

We listen.

We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.

Prayer

Candle Litany Catherine Rudy

We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

Jubilation! Rejoicing! No fear!

We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Song VT 42 Could It Be That God Is Singing

sung by Menno Singers

Confession & Assurance

Even our wildest imaginations cannot grasp the immense beauty of God. This is a true confession.

We are small, God is bigger.

We will never fully know, but we are fully known.

**We catch glimpses of God's magnificence,
and we accept that it is only that, a glimpse.**

God invites us to accept our smallness—while we join the awesome song of God's joy.

As we await the birth of Jesus, we give ourselves joyfully to the one who imagines the divine in the form of a child.

Dare to imagine!

Theme Song VT 276 Solemn Stillness-Weary Streets

sung by members of Salford Mennonite Church

Scripture Luke 3:7-18

Song HWB 176 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

Sermon Susan Allison Jones

Song of Response STS 124 My Soul Cries Out

sung by Rory Cooney

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Benediction VT 883 "Sing and Sing"

Sing and sing. And when you cannot raise a note of song, the rocks will cry out. And when the echoing stones go still, in the dangerous crevice that is your heart, if you lie still, there remains an altar, a way to enter a terrible holiness, a lush and delicate calm.

Carols HWB 194 Away in a Manger

HWB 197 Angels We Have Heard on High

Protocol Reminders - In Person Worship

We wish to create a safe environment for people to gather to worship. We invite all to enter into this new way of being community together with gratitude to our God that we can adapt to new ways of being a faithful community. We ask that you are mindful of these protocols.

- Maintain a six foot distance between you and others when possible in all areas of the building. Please be mindful of this at the end of the service when exiting our worship space and avoid congestion in the foyer. As much as possible visit with each other outside.
- Wear a mask at all times unless you have breathing issues.
- Hum or quietly sing for hymns.
- Use the hand sanitizer upon entry and exit.
- Do not move chairs in the sanctuary. Ushers will rearrange the chairs if needed.
- Washrooms (upstairs and downstairs) are available for your use. If possible, please limit to one person at a time.
- Signing in is not necessary
- Please take coats to your seats if possible.
- Be aware of the number of people in the foyer at one time. Please visit at socially acceptable distances in the sanctuary.

Protocols Reminders - Access to Church Building

- Sign in and out on the papers located in the foyer and the side entrance. Please wear a mask.
- If others are in the building maintain a six foot distance between each other.
- Use the hand sanitizer upon entry and exit.
- Washrooms (upstairs and downstairs) are available for your use. If possible, please limit to one person at a time.

Upcoming Worship Service

Dec 12 Advent 3 (Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18)

Dec 19 Advent 4 (Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55)

Upcoming Events

Quilting and Matt Weaving - Tuesday mornings at the church

Birthdays:

December 15, Pat Jantzi

December 17, Meritta Dreschke

Prayer Requests:

Please keep Ralph Bean in your prayers as he awaits a treatment plan.

Continue to pray for Carol Barton's grandson Steven as he awaits news on whether he can be a transplant candidate.

Congregational Notes:

Christmas Eve Service You are welcome to invite guests to join you for the Christmas Eve Service. If possible please let Valerie know by Thurs. Dec 23 how many people will be attending with you. (Or sign the sheet in the bulletin board in the library.)

Sight & Sound is a theater company based in Lancaster County that has produced live shows such as Noah, Jonah, Ruth, Moses, Jesus to name a few. A season pass or pay as you go service is available for home viewing. For more information talk to Ross or Erma Shantz as they have a season pass. Check it out at: <https://www.sight-sound.tv/>

Beyond The Congregation:

Live Nativity Walk Thru at East Zorra Mennonite Church (977044 16th Line, Tavistock, ON) **Saturday December 18th from 5 – 8 p.m.** (rain/storm date Sunday December 19th). This will be an outdoor event so please dress for the weather! We will be accepting donations for the Huron Perth Children's Aid Society and receipts will be issued upon request. Please see our website for more information about the event. <https://ezmennonite.ca/>

The Longest Night: Marking the darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. Livestream and in-person worship service at Zion United Church, December 21st 7pm. A memory tree is available outside of Zion United Church (Dec 7-22) as a symbolic way to recognize our losses with other members of the community. Ribbons and further details will be provided at the memory tree.

MCC Gift Giving Give gifts of comfort and joy! Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbours this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more. Give at mcco.ca/christmas.

Warm up your winter!

Raw Carrot soup is now available at Thrift on Kent in Kitchener and the New Hamburg Thrift Centre. As an MCC Ontario program, The Raw Carrot provides a compassionate workplace to people on long term disability. Our healthy soups are handcrafted in small batches, packed with tasty veggies and free of added preservatives. Fresh ingredients are sourced as locally as possible. Our staff are "stirring up" change with their delicious, handcrafted gourmet soup!

Menno Singers is back!

Join artistic director Brandon Leis and choir for an online watch party on Sunday, December 19 at 3:00 pm as we share 'Christmas Lessons and Carols', recorded live at Trillium Lutheran Church. You can find the direct link to watch that afternoon at <http://www.mennosingers.com/>

