

WILMOT MENNONITE CHURCH

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December 19 , 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dare to imagine God's face!

What amazing love is this that the Godhead comes down to us in the little clan of a little people and takes on a human face? With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Savior, by actively participating in God's leveling mercy.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship

OD Gingerich

Come.

Come as you are.

Come with your needs, your doubts, your dreams, your hopes.

Come, expecting God to meet us— here and in the innermost longing of our souls.

Watch. Wait.

God is present in our worship!

Prayer

Candle Litany

We light a candle of love, and imagine

the lowly lifted, fear met with love.

We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

Song HWB 178 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Scripture Mary's Song of Praise Luke 1:39-55

Confession & Assurance

We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.

Teach us to love.

We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.

We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

Reorientate us to your vision of equality.

God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God has looked with favour on our lowliness.

The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.
(adapted from Luke 1:46-49)

Song VT246 Come Join in Mary's Prophet Song

Scripture Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7

Song VT 276 Solemn Stillness-Weary Streets
sung by members of Salford Mennonite Church

Sermon Susan Allison Jones

Song of Response HWB 208 Love Came Down at Christmas

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

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/>> www.mennosingers.com

Benediction

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open up your heart to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.

(a Celtic prayer)

Christmas Carols

HWB 212 O Come, All Ye Faithful

HWB 191 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Upcoming Worship Service

Dec 19 Advent 4 Susan Allison Jones

(Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:39-55)

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service

Dec 26 Wilmot Ignited Joint Worship Service hosted by Hillcrest
Mennonite Church

Jan 2 Dare to Imagine God's dance Susan Allison Jones

(Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147; Luke 15:22-25)

Birthdays:

December 20, Floyd Gerber

December 21, Verda Cook

December 27, Florence Scheerer

December 27, Carol Barton

Prayer Requests:

As we come close to Christmas pray for vulnerable populations in our communities. Give thanks for staff at agencies like Wilmot Resource Center and House of Friendship who have given so much of themselves as they service this population.

Continue to pray for Ralph Bean as he completes a series of tests before beginning chemotherapy.

Congregational Notes:

Thank you to my Wilmot Church family for the beautiful Poinsettia and Christmas Blessings, from Barb Jantzi.

We want to thank our Wilmot church family for the lovely poinsettia you gave to us! We so much appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers and for remembering us this Christmas! And may you all have a Blessed Christmas Season and a Blessed New Year. Harold and Darlene Culp.

Ralph and Sandra would like to thank everyone for their prayers and that we worship an awesome God. The appointment that we got in London was a cancellation. We wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe one. Sandra and Ralph

Due to an increasing rate of transmission in Waterloo Region and the presence of another variant, the Pandemic Committee in consultation with the Worship Ministry Team has decided that we will err on the side of caution and **discontinue all in person worship services effective immediately**. A pre-recorded service will be sent out to members by Saturday and tablets will be delivered to those who are not internet accessible. A sharing time on Zoom will be held on Sunday mornings at 11 am. This will be reviewed in the new year.

Zoom Join other members on Sunday morning at 11 am by Zoom or by phone.

Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4766152022>

Meeting ID: 476 615 2022 Passcode: 2995

Phone Use either of these numbers.

1 647 374 4685 1 647 558 0588

Christmas Eve Service There will not be an in person Christmas Even service. A pre recorded service will be sent out on the 24th.

December 26 Hillcrest Mennonite Church is hosting a service for all Wilmot Ignited Churches. Join them on Zoom using the following link Wilmot Ignited Joint Worship Gathering
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9644700704?pwd=L00vMTJ1My9sUUVVWFoyWGFrVDZCdz09>

Meeting ID: 964 470 0704

Passcode: 1525

If you wish to phone into the zoom call please use either of these numbers. You will need the meeting ID and the Password.

1 647 374 4685 1 647 558 0588

There will not be a bulletin for this Dec 26.

Beyond The Congregation:

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. To live stream the service go to: tinyurl.com/zionunited