

# Zion Mennonite Church

Zion Mennonite Church covenants to grow together as a Christ-centered community, worshipping God, extending our Anabaptist branch into our world, bearing the lasting fruit of discipleship, and planting the seeds for God's reign through hospitality, service, and reconciliation with God and others.

December 15, 2019

## Third Sunday of Advent



Prelude  
 Welcome and Announcements  
 Call to Worship : "The Candle of Hope"  
 Singing  
 Offering  
 Children's Story  
 Special Music: Ally and Eva Coulombe  
 Prayer of the Church  
 Message: "The Magnificat"  
 Scripture: Luke 1: 46-55  
 Response song: *My Soul is filled with Joy*  
 Children's song choice  
 Sharing and Prayer  
 Sending Song  
 Benediction



Worship Leader: Pat Hershberger  
 Song Leader: Charlie and Seth Gingerich  
 Children's Story: Gina Hansen  
 Prelude/Offertory: Karen Tro, Kristin Oakes

9:00am  
 9:30am  
 9:45am  
 10:45am

### This Morning:

Coffee Time  
 Sunday School for All Ages  
 Prayer Team meets (upstairs classroom)  
 Worship Service

### This Afternoon/Evening

No Activities

### This Week:

Tuesday	12:15pm	Prayer Meeting in Mathew's Office
Saturday	7:00pm	Sing Your Own Messiah

### Worship Schedule:

#### Advent and Worship Series "Prayers of Our Mothers"

December 22: Fourth Sunday, "From the Lips of Children"

Luke 2: 1-20

December 29: The Presentation in the Temple; "Thanks to God",

Luke 2:21-38

January 5: Epiphany Sunday.

January 12: Guest speakers: Ken and Katherine Jameson Pitts about Christian faith and climate change

*Pastor Mathew will be out today through Saturday of this week setting up his and Becky's new home in The Dalles.*

Tuesday morning Bible Study will break until January 7.

**TO STRENGTHEN OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER,** starting on Sunday, January 5, 2020, there will be cards in the pews for writing requests, testimonies and concerns, which can go into the offering basket for sharing and prayer by a pastor or prayer leader that same Sunday. This is in addition to any verbal reflections or prayer requests. This is to give all a way to share and seek prayer support, even if we are uncomfortable speaking in public. There will also be boxes to mark indicating if you wish the information to be kept private with a pastor, or shared during worship, or in another way or time.



As Stephen Ministry training continues in January, we get closer to the commissioning of Carolyn Yoder, Luanne Berkey, Sheryl Mast, Chris Keady and Karen Kropf for their ministry among us. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Sing Your Own Messiah

Saturday, December 21, 7:00pm

Refreshments will follow

Please bring ready to serve finger foods to share with guests

### “The Christmas Story” Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22, 10:45am

### Caroling at HOPE Village

Sunday, December 22, 6:30pm

Meet at Zion at 6:15pm to carpool (or meet in front of the Community Center at HOPE at 6:30); carolers are invited to Stan and Vonnie Oyer’s house afterwards for snacks and drinks.

Please bring snacks to share.

All ages are welcome!

### Christmas Eve Service

Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church hosts on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00pm at Hope Village

All are welcome!



## DINNERS TOGETHER

Please sign up during the month of December if you would like to participate in the January, February, and March round. Anyone is welcome to sign up, as a single or as a couple. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Contact Vonnie Oyer if you have any questions.

### It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Alex and Kendra (Keady) Long on the birth of their little girl, Anne Kathryn Long, born December 3. She weighed 6lbs. 6 oz. and 19 inches. The proud grandparents are Toby and Chris Keady.

*Thank you, Zion, for helping us raise \$600 for our MYF youth fund! The wreath fundraiser was a success! And Juana thanks you for supporting her business and family. We love how this is a double blessing fundraiser!*  
-MYF

## PRAYERS OF OUR MOTHERS

Devotional Guide for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany  
December 2, 2019—January 5, 2020

**Monday, December 16:** Psalm 80: 1-7; 17-19. What, to you, is the most important reason for Christ's coming? To be Savior? Teacher? Sacrifice? Mediator? Example? Christ is all of these, and more. This psalm expresses the pain of Israel in Exile and their longing for the restoration of their nation and the kingship, a "Son of David" to be "the one at your right hand," so that "then we will never turn back from" God. How does Christ answer this longing, and the prayers of Psalm 80?

*"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man [sic]. Every other miracle [in the Bible] prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this."*  
By C.S. Lewis, Miracles

**Tuesday, December 17:** Romans 1: 1-7. Paul knows that his letter will go to house churches in Rome with both Jewish and Gentile members. What is there in this salutation that would speak to the hopes and the identity of Jewish Christians in Rome? What in this salutation would honor, include and encourage Gentile Christians? A Roman emperor, like Nero, at the time, was officially declared "son of the gods" by the Senate. According to this passage, how was Jesus' divine Sonship revealed and affirmed, and by whom?

*"God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment."* — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas"

**Wednesday, December 18:** Isaiah 7: 10-16. These words were spoken when Jerusalem was under siege by combined armies of Aram and the Northern Kingdom of Israel (8th Century, B.C.), to encourage King Ahaz and the people of Zion with the promise of deliverance. This miraculous rescue and reversal would come within the time it takes for a woman to become engaged, marry, conceive and give birth, and then wean the child. Her son, named Emmanuel ("God with us"), is himself a sign of God's presence and action on behalf of a besieged and endangered people. What does your name mean? To what aspects of God's work and nature does your life testify?

**Thursday, December 19:** Matthew 1: 18-25. How does this account of Christ's Nativity relate to Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz, in yesterday's reading? Joseph gets more coverage in this passage than will Mary, in tomorrow's reading from Luke's Gospel. What traits and actions of Joseph's do you find exemplary or appealing? What do you find mysterious or puzzling? *"The Incarnation is the ultimate reason why the service of God cannot be divorced from the service of man."* — The Cost of Discipleship, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Friday, December 20:** Luke 2: 1-20. After the many years and times you may have read or heard this passage, what new questions or insights impress you this time? *"God is on earth, He is among us, not in the fire nor amid the sound of trumpets; not in the smoking mountain, or in the darkness, or in the terrible and roaring tempest giving the Law, but manifested in the flesh, the gentle and good One dwells with those He condescends to make His equals! God is in the flesh, not operating from a distance, as did the prophets, but through Him human nature, one with ours, He seeks to bring back all humanity to Himself."* — St. Basil the Great, "On the Incarnation"

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### MCC RELIEF KITS



If you would like to include MCC relief projects in your prayers, there are star post-it notes in the foyer windows with country names written on them. Each country written on a star is currently receiving relief kits. You can peel the post-it from the hanging star and take it home as a visual reminder during your personal or family prayer time.

Items for the MCC relief kits may be left in a box or bag in the foyer. Please deliver kit items by Sunday, January 5, which is the date our collections will be consecrated.

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**Please keep in your prayers:**

- The people and Christians of Burkina Faso, in West Africa, including our Mennonite World Conference partners, after another attack by jihadist militants against a church in the eastern part of the country last week, in which 14 people were killed.
- The Instituto Bíblico Anabautista, that it continues to be a blessing through the training of new leaders for the Hispanic congregations in Mennonite Church USA, and the 37 volunteer tutors who meet weekly with the students in 35 study centers (Mennonite Education Agency)
- DOOR's leadership development program, Discern, that works with local youth of color to help them expand their leadership skills through mentorship and workshops engaging justice issues, and for resources to broaden the current three-month program to nine months (Mennonite Mission Network)

**A prayer to carry though the week:** *"I am born to serve you, to be yours, to be your instrument. Let me be your blind instrument. I ask not to see—I ask not to know—I simply ask to be used."*

<p><b>Budget Report:</b> Budget Amount: \$331,000 Giving year-to- date: \$260,861 Amount needed per Sunday to meet Budget: \$23,439</p>
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**Nursery:**

This week: Wendy and Jaclyn Roth  
Next Week: Elizabeth and Simon Masingila  
**Greeters Next Week:** Urszula Balenkowski,  
Denny and Carol Stringer

**Last Sunday:**

Attendance: 133  
Offering: \$4530

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**Church Staff:**

Mathew Swora, Lead Pastor: zionpastor\_ms@canby.com  
Jana Gingerich, Associate Pastor: zionpastor\_jg@canby.com  
Jodi Hansen, Office Administrator: zionmc@canby.com  
Pastoral Leadership Team: Andy Coulombe, Karen Tro, Stan Oyer

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