Mennonite Church USA

Shalom Mennonite Congregation

December 16, 2018 | Third Sunday in Advent—Love

It was obvious she'd been prepared well - far from mother, grandmother, cousin, yet taught by them and remembering the teaching.
She knew that pain is part of every birth living with the hope and the joy.†

As disciples of Jesus and lovers of God we seek to be a community where God's love transcends all barriers that oppress and exclude people. These barriers include race, culture, gender, social status, sexual identity and economics as well as misunderstanding and prejudice.

GATHERING
Centering Bell
Gathering Song   _Come, Light of the world_   STS 3
Welcome
Call to worship & Lighting the Candle of Love
    One: Today we tell the story again of the promised One.
  Many: Tell us again how Love was born.
    One: We've heard it before, but not the whole story.
  Many: A new chapter is being written even still today.
    One: Who will tell of God's Love? And who will listen?
    All: Midwife of God, lead us into new life!

HEARING THE WORD
The Midwife's Story
Family Christmas Pageant
Hymns

O come, O come, Immanuel	HWB 172, v1,3,5
It came upon the midnight clear	HWB 195
The friendly beasts	Insert
Angels we have heard on high	HWB 197
What child is this?	HWB 215
Joy to the world	HWB 318
Love came down at Christmas	HWB 208

RESPONDING
Passing the Love of Christ
    May the Love of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Prayers of the People
        Loving God, **we offer you our prayer.**
Offering

SENDING
Introductions & Announcements
Benediction   _Hope is a candle_   STS 15, v1-3

TODAY Worship Leader: _Krista Showalter Ehst;_ Music Leader: _Brian Bolton;_ Pageant Directors: _Melody Mast, Bethany Chupp_; Visuals: _Ruby Friesen Zehr_

Worship Calendar | Upcoming Speakers and Events
Dec. 23   Brian Bolton | Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dec. 24   Christmas Eve | Lessons and Carols
Dec. 30   Children's Christmas Story & Cookie Potluck
Jan. 6   Brian Bolton | Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Shalom's annual Christmas Caroling & Christmas party are this afternoon/evening. Caroling starts at 4 p.m. at Melody and Tina's house at 415 E. Wolfe Street. Dress warmly! Then from 5:30-7:30 p.m. come to VMRC's Village Hall for the Christmas party. Please bring a finger food snack or two to share. Drinks, cups, and plates will be provided.

Join us midweek reflection on the themes of Advent! You can join a hymn sing and reflection from 6:45 – 8 p.m. this Wednesday at the home of Faye and Emery Yoder, 875 Hillside Ave. Or use the same resource in your own home or your own midweek gatherings. See the next blurb for details:

† Each Sunday in Advent will include references to an advent poem, "The Midwife's Story," and associated woodcut artwork by Margaret Kyle. These are included in a weekly study guide published by Northstone Publishing and available at a link at shalommc.org, as well as a few printed copies on the table at by the door. This week's worship is a pageant play that includes the whole poem. Our midweek reflection will be drawn from Week 3B: "Lamb in a Stable—Lamb on a Cross," on page 16.

The special Christmas offering to be received following the pageant is for Midwives for Haiti. Offerings will be received until Dec. 31. See Shalom e-News for more information on their mission.

Formation Classes will be on break through Jan. 6. **We look forward to seeing you again on Jan. 13**! During the same time period, there will be no childcare provided. Families are welcome to use the Quiet Room at the top of the ramp, if an alternative space is needed for little ones.

Save the Date: Parents of children aged 0 to grade 5 are invited to gather **Sunday, Jan. 13 at 9 a.m.** We'll discuss hopes for living and worshipping together at Shalom. Reps from Formation and Safe Congregation Committees will also be present for whatever questions you bring! Child care (and formation classes) will be provided.

Budget Report

Dec. offering	$13,324.00	YTD offering	$175,720.00
Monthly need	$14,521.80	YTD need	$167,427.50

Dec. 2 Attendance—134; Regular offering—$3,110.00

Worship setup
3rd Sunday—*Jeff Heie & Kajungu Mturi*
4th Sunday—*Joel Yoder*

Offering & Mic-setup
3rd Sunday—*Cliff Lind*
4th Sunday—*Joel Yoder*

Snack schedule & Coffee clean-up
Today—*Jan Emswiler*
Next Sunday—*Valerie & Justin*

Greeters
Today— *Brendan Erb*
Next Sunday—*Faye Yoder*

Formation
On break until Jan. 13

Jesus, our brother / The Friendly Beasts

Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our Brother, strong and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother uphill and down,
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town;
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
In the stable dark were glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
The gifts they gave Emmanuel.