

Sharing the Light of Christ*

We have endured times of despair,
are immersed in a culture of fear.
Yet, we hold a candle for HOPE,
Because we cannot wait for hope
Our world, our country, our homes,
and even our bodies are places of conflict.
Yet, we hold a candle for PEACE,
Because we cannot wait for peace
We are often stretched beyond our capacities to care and to
empathize with others who seem bent on spreading hate.
Yet, we hold a candle for LOVE,
Because we cannot wait for love
And our lives have been so full, so tiring, and so painful that
we've considered giving up,
Yet, we hold a candle for JOY,
Because we cannot wait for joy,
Immense in mercy and with an incredible love,
God embraced us.
God took our broken lives and made us alive in Christ.

Christ is born!
Christ is born in us!

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in
all that is good and right and true.

(singing)

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Everywhere I go....

Hymn*

Silent Night

HWB 193

Passing of the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.



Shalom Mennonite Congregation

December 24, 2019 | Christmas Eve



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, age, ability, sexual identity, economics, misunderstanding and prejudice.

Centering Bell

Gathering Song Wexford Carol solo

Welcome
Call to worship

One: This Advent, we have waited.

Many: We have waited for family to arrive.

One: We have waited, singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Many: We have waited for the cookies to bake.

One: We have waited for snow to fall.

Many: We have waited in line at checkout counters.

One: We have waited by fireplaces and around dinner tables.

Many: We have waited to raise our candles.

One: We have waited to sing "Silent Night."

Many: We have waited for the magic of this night.

One: And now the wait is over. It is Christmas, which means God is here and you are loved.

Many: May that truth change us. May it inspire us, challenge us, and burn in us like the light from these candles.

One: For tonight we will light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love to remind us of our journey to this space. And to those lights we will add the Christ candle, for the wait is over. Christ is here.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Hymn* *O Come, O Come Immanuel* HWB 172

First Lesson: Hope Can't Wait

Image "Desert Blooms"

Scripture Isaiah 35:1-10

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Hymns *Come, thou fount* HWB 529
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming duet

Second Lesson: Peace Can't Wait

Image "Fuel for Justice"

Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymns* *O little town of Bethlehem* HWB 191
It came upon a midnight clear HWB 195

Third Lesson: Joy Can't Wait

Image "The Dance"

Scripture Luke 1:46-55

Hymn *Joy to the World* HWB 318

Fourth Lesson: Love Can't Wait

Image "For Love"

Scripture 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Hymn *Love came down at Christmas* ensemble

Fifth Lesson: God Couldn't Wait

Image "God Couldn't Wait"

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Song *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* solo

Reading What If God Had Waited?

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn *Helpless & Hungry* STS 26
& What child is this? HWB 215

Sixth Lesson: We Can't Wait

Image "Light Pierces Through"

Scripture John 1:1-13

Poem *Remembering that it happened once* Wendell Berry

(program continues on back page)

Solos: John Asa Hertzler, Krista Showalter Ehst; **Duet:** Maia & Trent Wagler;

Ensemble: Brian Bolton, Emily Hershberger, Krista & Tim Showalter Ehst, and Trent Wagler;

Readers: Cindy & Merrill Miller, Lisl Hershberger, Mary Jean Cross, and Seth Stauffer;

Worship Leader and planners: Carrie Dengler Wenger, Krista Showalter Ehst, Brian Bolton

All art displayed is part of the Sanctified Art "What Can't Wait" advent collection except for "For Love" by Jan Richardson, all used with permission.