

**Hymns**                      *Hope Is a Candle, (vs 1,2,5)*                      VT 211  
   *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*                      VT 237

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**A reading from Mark 1:1-8**

**Children's Pageant** (*see insert*)

**Hymns**                      *O Come, O Come, Immanuel (vs. 1,5,6)*                      VT 210  
   *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder (vs 1-3)*                      VT 222  
   *It Came upon a Midnight Clear (vs 1,4)*                      VT 248  
   *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*                      VT 218

## **Advent Candlelighting**

Voice 1: Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.

Voice 2: Amidst Our Losses,

**All: God Promises Peace.**

Voice 1: We light this candle to show our solidarity with those who are still waiting on peace to come.

Voice 2: God of Peace,

**All: We will walk the path you have lit for us, and we welcome you as the shepherd of our salvation.**

**Hymn**                      *Wisdom from on High is Dawning*                      VT 238

## **RESPONDING**

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

## **SENDING**

**Introductions, Announcements**

**Sending Song**                      *The Peace of the Earth Be with You*                      VT 838

**Benediction and Passing the Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Joy Versluis, Worship Leader*  
*Melody Mast, Music Leader*  
*Krista Showalter Ehst, Prayers*

*Mike, Erica, Ramona Ramer, Candle Lighters*  
*Hollis Showalter, Leland Ropp, AV Tech*  
*Marty Showalter, Zoom Host*

## **Advent 2023 - God's Promises**

This Advent we hold in contrast very difficult circumstances and God's promises of Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. Our prophetic scriptures show that we are not the first to live in these tensions. Like many ancient followers, we wait and work for Shalom justice for all. We grieve and celebrate as we worship the sacred Shepherd who draws near.

## **Today at Shalom**

**8:30 am:** Christmas Pageant practice

**9:00 am:** Parents' Circle; while the children are making final preparations for the Christmas pageant, parents are welcome to gather for Parents' Circle in the Library.

**10 am:** Worship/Christmas Pageant. Staffed nursery for children through age 5 is available.

**7-10 pm:** College Students - EMU Study break in the old Common Grounds space at EMU

## **Coming Up at Shalom**

**Dec 11, 6:30 pm:** Christmas Hymn Sing @ Godshall's, 957 Smith Ave.

**Dec 13, 7 pm:** Women's Group, meets at Cathy Smeltzer Erb's home; newcomers welcome!

**Dec 14, 7 pm:** Administrative Council meeting, Sandy Wenger's home

**Dec 17, 4:30 pm:** Christmas Caroling & Party

**Dec 19, 4-6 pm:** Youth Christmas Party

**Dec 24, 10 am:** Christmas Eve Worship in the morning

**Pageant Offering:** Each year, Shalom collects a special offering during the Christmas pageant. As part of this year's focus on creation care and climate justice, we have chosen Creative Solutions for the Environment, a non-profit focused on environmental preservation in Malawi, East Africa.

The mission of Creative Solutions for the Environment is "We preserve the environment through organizing, educating and empowering rural communities to reforest, build resilience, create alternative livelihoods and reduce poverty as we transition to a more eco-friendly and sustainable way of life." Shalomers Tom Benevento and Margot Zahner have been working with CSE this fall. **All undesignated cash collected in the offering baskets this Sunday will go directly toward CSE Malawi. Checks may be designated as "Pageant Offering". You may also donate online through the QR code in your bulletin or the link at the top of your email newsletter, select "2023 Pageant Offering" from the drop down menu.** You can learn more by going to [csemw.org](http://csemw.org).

## Budget Summary (December 3, 2023)

### ACTUAL

Weekly Offering \$ 5,470.14  
December \$ 5,470.14  
YTD \$222,799.48

### BUDGETED

Weekly Offerings \$5,499.69  
Average Monthly \$23,832.00  
YTD \$269,484.92



*Visitors: Welcome to Shalom! If you would like to be on our mailing list or be contacted by someone on pastoral team, please send your name and email to [office@shalommc.org](mailto:office@shalommc.org). You can also scan the QR code to fill out a survey about yourself or access the giving link for Shalom.*



**Covid/Flu Policy** - Masks are optional at our gatherings, but please join virtually if you are sick or mask if you are unsure or being cautious.

Shalom Mennonite Congregation is a welcoming and inclusive community rooted in Jesus' radical call to love, justice, and peace.

We seek to grow our welcome and inclusion as we deepen our spirituality, build meaningful relationships, work for peace and social justice, and cultivate diverse community connections.

Visit our website at [shalommc.org/vision](http://shalommc.org/vision) to find out more about who we are, what we do, and what we strive for. You can also read there about our commitment statements regarding inclusion of many who identify as LGBTQIA+, and our policy and practices around maintaining an environment that protects children from abuse.

**Office and Mailing Address:** 1086A Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802

**Phone:** 540-432-1659

**Staff Pastors:** Brian Bolton, Georgia Metz, Krista Showalter Ehst; Administrative Assistant: Sandy Wenger; Bookkeeper: Joo Kim; Facilities Setup Coordinator: Norys Robles; Nursery & Safe Congregations Administrator: Ellen Miller.

**Congregational Chair:** Tim Godshall

Please contact any member of the Safe Congregation Team if you have questions or concerns regarding inappropriate sexual conduct, violence, intimidation, or physical abuse by child-care workers, teachers, or others in the congregation: Tim Godshall, 540-908-8194, Georgia Metz, 540-830-8490, Ross Erb, 540-435-0350; Brian Bolton, 540-830-8381

## Shalom Mennonite Congregation

December 10, 2023

*Advent 3: Amidst Our Losses, God Promises Peace  
Christmas Pageant*

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### GATHERING

**Centering Bell**

**Gathering Song**

*Mountain of God*

VT 11

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: From our own wilderness, hear our cries of loss, disappointment, and uncertainty.

**Many: Amidst our losses, God promises peace,**

*Low voices:* when we have a debilitating health condition.

**Many: Amidst our losses, God promises peace,**

*High voices:* when we thought our life was going to look like "this" but it doesn't.

**Many: Amidst our losses, God promises peace,**

*Low voices:* when we don't know how to navigate devastating choices.

**Many: Amidst our losses, God promises peace,**

*High voices:* when we are overwhelmed and nearly broken.

**Many: Amidst our losses, God promises peace.**

One: Because of our God's deep compassion  
the dawn from heaven will break upon us  
to give light to those who are sitting in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide us on the path of peace.