



Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship

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December 22, 2013

Advent 4: O the Mystery of God's Dwelling in the Child That is Born!

Inviting the Mystery

Prelude: *A time to quiet your spirit in preparation for worship*
Gathering Song: *Joy to the world* blue, 318
Prayer of Invocation
Call to Worship insert
Songs: *Let our gladness have no end* blue, 198
O little town of Bethlehem blue, 191

Engaging the Mystery

Dramatic Reading
Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16 Hooley Family
Confession and Lighting of the Advent Candles insert
Song: *Will the Children?* insert
Children's Time Andrew Snyder
In your sickness, your sufferings, your trials and pains, God is with you all the time. Persecution, temptation and loneliness, God is with you all the time.
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 Rafael Barahona
Silence
Song: *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* blue, 211

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon: *Dreaming and Trusting with Joseph* Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Response Action: *Anointing* insert
Offering
Sharing and Congregational Prayer
Song: *Come! Walk in the light* purple, 10
Benediction insert

Transition to Fellowship, Christian Education, and Mission

Welcome and Introduction of Visitors
(Please pass the friendship registers)
Announcements
Closing Prayer
Please join us for coffee and tea in the fellowship hall.

Worship Participants:

Worship Leader: Sherm Kauffman
Song Leader: Deb Brubaker
Accompanist: Patsy Sherer
Prelude/Offertory: Patsy Sherer
Congregational Prayer: Dan Schrock
Dramatic Reading: Dan Adcock, Rafael Barahona, Patrick Buller and Aaron Wieand
Lighting of the Advent Candles: Jenny, John, Lauren and Austin Hooley
Nursery: Lisa and Darin Short
Ushers: Bob and Lorraine Pfloderer
AV Operator: Matthew Williams
Visuals: Lana Smucker

Childcare is available during worship for infants & toddlers (Ages 0-3).

Nurture Hour

Sunday school will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced in worship. First enjoy a time of fellowship after the worship service.

- INFANTS & TODDLERS (under 2 years) – *Cherub Corner*
- PRESCHOOL (ages 2-4) – *Joyful Class*
- PRIMARY (K-Grade 2) – *Peaceful Class*
- MIDDLE (Grade 3-5) – *Forgiveness Class*
- JUNIOR YOUTH – *JYF*
- HIGH SCHOOL – *MYF*
- COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT – *Library*
- POST-COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT – *Jubilee Hall*
- ADULTS (Intergenerational)
 - Sermon Response – *Sanctuary*
 - Better Than a Donut – *End of Hallway*
 - Women's Class – *Off Jubilee Hall*
 - Animate: Faith – *Jubilee Hall*

If you are visiting, be sure to sign up for our weekly email newsletter!
www.berkeyavenue.org/newsletter



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Insert sheet

Call to Worship

Leader: Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son!

People: *Let us awake to joy!*

Leader: He shall be called, "God is with us,"

People: *and will refuse evil and choose good.*

Leader: God gives us a sign:

All: *O, the mystery of God's dwelling in the child that is born!*

Confession and Lighting of the Advent Candles

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16 (Common English Bible)

10 *Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:*

11 *"Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."*

12 *But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the LORD."*

13 *Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God?"*

14 *Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.*

15 *He will eat butter and honey, and learn to reject evil and choose good.*

16 *Before the boy learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned.*

Leader: The power of God is held in the weakness of human flesh.

Let us pause to consider incarnation: a child born and a son given.

(pause)

Let us confess our skepticism and doubt, the weakness of our mortality.

(pause)

The fourth Advent candle is the candle of joy.

People: *In this light, we receive forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells in the child that is born.*

Response Action: Anointing (adapted from 1 John 4:7-12)

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

People: *Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

Leader: God's love came to us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might know life and love in all its fullness.

People: *This is love! It isn't that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son to love us into wholeness.*

Leader: Dear friends, because God loves us so much, we can love one another.

People: *No one has ever seen God, but when we love each other, God's love is made visible in us, and God's love shines through us to the world.*

All: *Let us receive this love as a gift of grace.*

(Ritual of Anointing)

Leader: Shepherd of life and love, you have given us life.

People: *You have restored us, O God.*

All: *Thanks be to God for this gift of love!*

Benediction

Leader: Receive the child who comes to establish God's dwelling!

People: *God is with us!*

All: *In the mystery of God's dwelling in the child, there is joy!*