



Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship

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December 31, 2017

Advent Three: Let It Be New

Gathering

Songs:

Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah blue, 50

To us a Child of hope is born blue, 189

Call to Worship

Leader: Yes! We will give thanks and rejoice!

All: We will praise the Lord from the heavens, from the heights, and with the angels!

Leader: We praise the Lord with the sun and moon! We praise the Creator of the shining stars!

All: Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!

Leader: Young men and women alike! Children and the aged ones too! Let us praise the name of the Lord.

All: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Yes! Let all things be new.

Prayer

Praising

Songs:

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming blue, 211

(Lighting of Advent Candles, John Hooley)

Oh, how joyfully blue, 209

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Song: *Will the children?* insert

Children's Time Sherm Kauffman

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: "What Makes a Good Life?" Dan Schrock

Responding

Song: *Joyful is the dark* blue, 233

Confession:

All: O God, the waiting is over, the time has come: you dwell among us! We marvel at the mystery of your birth. We are filled and guided by the Spirit as you open our eyes, our hearts, and our arms to receive you.

Leader: Yes, we say, and yet we confess that instead of being drawn beyond our knowing, into the call of your infinite light, we examine your coming within the boundaries of our understanding.

All: We confess that instead of marveling at the vastness of your mercy, instead of rejoicing with Simeon and Anna, instead of allowing your Spirit to move within and among us, we resist the mystery of your presence.

Leader: We confess our struggle to step forth with vulnerability, honesty, courage, dreams, hope, and celebration emanating from the depth of our hearts.

All: Forgive us.

(pause for silence)

Words of Assurance:

Leader: O God, Emmanuel, in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us. You have given us life, and we are restored.

Silence

Wonder and Wisdom Reading

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Dan Schrock

Transition to Fellowship

Welcome & Introduction of Visitors

(Please pass the friendship registers.)

Announcements

Song: *Gloria*

blue, 204

Benediction

Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Lois Mast

Song Leader: Andrea Bontrager Yoder

Offertory: Elisabeth and Rafael Barahona

Visuals: Lana Smucker, Sanctuary; Leah Garboden, Fellowship Hall

Ushers: Ron and Lori Good

AV Operator: Terry MacGregor

Hearing assistance devices are available in the room beside the doors to the sanctuary. Please see the A/V operator if you would like one.

We offer childcare during worship after children's time for infants & toddlers. Children under 2 years of age may go to the Cherub Corner room, while 2 and 3 year olds may go to the MYF room.

Infant Care: Doug Baker, Clare and Merrill Krabill

Toddler Care: Sarah and Alice Morrison, Anita and Tavi Mounsithiraj

**Nurture Hour classes will not meet today.
Please enjoy a time of fellowship after the worship service.**

*A recording of this service is available in the office.
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www.berkeyavenue.org/newsletter*