

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 6, 2015

Advent 2: The Path of Mercy

Hearing devices are available from an usher or the sound booth.

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome

Christine Crouse-Dick

Hymn STJ 109

There is more love somewhere

Call to Worship

Leader: We wait for God's light to burst into our dark world.
Open your eyes. Unstop your ears.

People: **As we prepare for your coming,
we recognize that we are in need of change.**

Leader: Like the valleys and hills, the crooked paths and rough places, we need your mercy to transform us.

People: **We confess that we still live in the shadows of apathy, greed, and prejudice. Burn away in your refining fire all that keeps us from you.**

All: **Kindle in us your merciful love, so that we may be freed to serve and worship you in spirit and in truth.**

Prayer

Praising

Choral Anthems

O come, O come Immanuel – arr. John Rutter
Come, Jesus, Holy Child – setting by Healey Willan

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Nursery care for young children is available through the end of the service.

Hymn HWB 183

On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:67-79

Quiet Reflection

The periods of silence will begin and end with the ringing of a chime.

Sermon

“Mercy”

Rachel Ringenberg Miller

Quiet Reflection

Responding to the Word

Hymn STJ 54

Longing for Light (verses 1 & 2)

Prayer for Mercy

Leader: Together we light the second candle of Advent to symbolize our need for God's mercy. God bursts into our world to help us break out of cycles of hatred and revenge.

People: **We can come out of the shadows and live in the light.
With this candle, we offer our hearts and minds to God.**

Leader: We light this candle as a reminder to take heart. God is coming to make things right.

People: **The path God reveals is mercy. Forgive us O, God. We long to be set free from all that keeps us from you.**

Offertory and Prayer *Sleepers, wake!* – J.S. Bach

Sharing Time and Introductions

During this time in the service we welcome visitors, invite responses to the worship service, and share prayer concerns and joys. Please sign the Welcome Pages (black books) in the pews so we can learn each other's names.

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Hymn HWB 174

Bless'd be the God of Israel

Benediction

Welcoming Statement for Shalom Mennonite Church

We embrace all people in the name of Christ. Everyone is a unique creation in the image of God. We are an open and affirming congregation that seeks to follow Jesus. We welcome into full participation in the life and ministry of the church, people of every race, immigration status, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, education, economic status, and life situation. We welcome diverse perspectives as we gather around God's table together.

Shalom Mennonite Church

(316) 283-7395

www.shalomnewton.org

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:45 am – Worship

Upcoming Services

December 13 – Advent 2 Theme: The Path of Trust; **Sara Dick** will be preaching about trust.

December 20 – Advent 3 Theme: The Path of Love; **Rachel Ringenberg Miller** will preach about love on the texts Luke 1:39-56 & Micah 5:2-5a.

December 27 – Advent 4 Theme: The Path of Service; **Rachel Ringenberg Miller** be preaching about service using the text of Luke 2:41-52.

Greeters: David & Mary Duerksen, Chuck & Cindy Regier

Musicians: Giovanna McQuillen-Schnabel, Greta Hiebert, Tom Szambecki

Spanish Scripture Reader: Jennifer Chappell Deckert

Advent Candle Lighter: Vernon Lohrentz

Visual Arts: Twila Schrock

Sound & Closing: David Kaufman

Church Board Chair: Barth Hague

Church Staff

Rachel Ringenberg Miller,
Pastor
rachel@shalomnewton.org

Sara Dick,
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Shalom Mennonite Church

Following Jesus, we risk love.

The Path of Mercy

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