

# Shalom Mennonite Church

December 9, 2012

## Flood of Mercy

### *Advent 2: Refined by Fire*

*For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;  
he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,  
and he will purify the descendants of Levi  
and refine them like gold and silver,  
until they present offerings to the Lord  
in righteousness.  
Malachi 3:2-3*

### Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Sara Dick

Candle Lighting and Gathering Music

Call to Worship

Here is what God says:  
"I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me."  
**Who can endure the day of God's coming?**  
**Who can stand when God appears?**  
Let us not be afraid.  
**The smelter's fire purifies but does not destroy;**  
**the launderer's soap washes but does not wreck.**  
*We want to be made clean,  
to stand before God with pure hearts.*

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymn HWB178

*Come thou long-expected Jesus*

### Proclaiming the Word

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Choir Anthems

*See amid the winter's snow* John Goss, arr. Fraser  
*On this day earth shall ring* arr. Holst

Children's Time

Toby and Megan Upton Tyner

Second Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Quiet Reflection

*The periods of silence in our worship will begin and end with the  
ringing of a chime.*

Meditation

"re-prepare the way"

Eric Massanari

Quiet Reflection

Confession

Blessed are you, Lord our God;  
you have come to your people to set them free.  
Refine us, set us free from all that binds us...  
(silence)  
In your tender mercy  
give us knowledge of our salvation  
through the forgiveness of our sins. Amen

Hymn HWB 183

*On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*

### Responding to the Word

Offertory & Prayer

Blessing of Mentoring Pairs (please see bulletin insert)

Sharing Time & 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 others'  
names.*

Prayers of the People

Sending Hymn HWB 174

*Bless'd be the God of Israel*

Benediction (from Philippians 1)

May our love overflow more and more  
with full knowledge and insight to help us determine what is best.  
We are confident of this: The one who began a good work among us  
will bring it to completion through Jesus Christ. Amen

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

## *Flood of Mercy*

### *Advent 2: Refined by Fire*

*The celebration of the Word made flesh, is also the celebration of all women and men who have incarnated the message of Jesus in their lives. We tell the stories of prophets, liberators, and martyrs of not so long ago whose lives challenge us to hold to our commitment to God and to be open to the Spirit who frees us from the bondage of our addictions and fears. Remembering Jesus, we make him a part of our lives. Remembering those who have followed him unites us with them.*

- Elisabeth Meluch, OCD



**Sunday, December 9, 2012**

Our purpose is to worship and praise God together, to pray for and encourage each other to live our covenant with God and to share Christ's good news with others. As Anabaptist Christians we will reach out to others, welcome all people, be aware of our neighbors and respond to their needs, and give ourselves to service.

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School    10:45 a.m.- Worship  
800 E. First St., Newton, KS  
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Web site: [shalomnewton.org](http://shalomnewton.org)

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Greeters: Beth & Jon Piper, Lola Schmidt, Marlene & Stan Smucker  
Musicians: Lela Mae Sawatzky, Greg Nickel, Shalom Adult Choir directed by  
Karen Schlabaugh  
Visual Arts: David Kaufman  
Sound System Operator/Closing: Andrew Thiesen

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Pastor: Eric Massanari  
Associate Pastor: Sara Dick  
Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger  
Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

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