

# Shalom Mennonite Church

December 1, 2013

## *Advent 1 – O the mystery of God's dwelling in our present!*

### Gathering & Special Announcements

#### *Inviting the Mystery*

#### **Prelude and Procession**

*We carry in a flame, the Bible, and a prayer cloth. May we trust the Light to guide us, the Word to teach us, and prayer to knit our lives together with God as we begin our time of worship.*

#### **Welcome and prayer**

#### **Call to Worship**

Leader: As an expectant people, we are moving into this experience of “God with us.”

**People: We do not know how or when or where the presence of God will come to us this season; but we come...with skepticism, with need, with hope.**

Leader: Like the children of Israel, the people of the world...we know deep longing for peace we cannot create, for salvation we cannot manage, for healing we cannot imagine.

**All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in our present!**

**Hymn HWB 233 (verses 1 & 2)**

*Joyful is the dark*

#### *Engaging the Mystery*

**Scripture reading**

Isaiah 2:1-5

#### **Confession and lighting the Advent wreath**

Leader: As we move into this time of Advent, we open our hearts to the hope of the coming Christ who brings light into our darkness. This hope calls us to release whatever separates us

from God and from each other for the transformation into that which sustains, strengthens, unites and gives peace. The first Advent candle is the candle of hope.

**People: In this light, we receive forgiveness and rebirth, knowing that God dwells with us in the present.**

**Children's time**

Euny Kerbs

**Scripture readings**

Matthew 24:36-44 and Romans 13:11-14

**Quiet Reflection**

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

**Hymn**

#### *Celebrating the Mystery*

**Meditation**

“Awake! Arise!”

Sara Dick

**Response**

**Quiet Reflection**

**Hymn of response**

**Offertory and Prayer**

**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 others' names.*

**Prayers of the People**

**Sending Hymn STJ 54 (verses 1 & 2)**

*Longing for light*

**Benediction**

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

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Sunday, December 1, 2013

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Greeters: David & Mary Duerksen, Chuck & Cindy Regier  
Musicians: Shalom Band, Josué and Diego Coy Dick, Greg Nickel  
Visual Arts: Marlene Smucker  
Sound and Closing: Greg Nickel

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Pastor: Sara Dick  
Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette  
Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger  
Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

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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 am - Sunday School    10:45 am - Worship  
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