

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 15, 2013

Advent 3 – O, the mystery of dwelling in God’s transformation

Gathering and 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.

Call to Worship

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.

Let us awake to love!

Strengthen your hearts, for the Lord is near.

We will not grumble against one another.

Come, rejoice in God our Savior.

O, the mystery of dwelling in God’s transformation.

Hymn HWB 233

Joyful Is the dark (verses 1 & 4)

Engaging the Mystery

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Confession and lighting the Advent wreath

In the coming of Jesus, we see God’s majesty:
Life springs out of death, desperation yields to hope.
Let us pause to consider the redemptive power of God.
(pause)

Let us confess the desert places in our lives,
The ways we have gone astray,
And all that is broken in our world.
(pause)

**In this light, we celebrate forgiveness,
Knowing that we dwell with God in the midst of transformation.**

Children’s Time

Sarah & David Kaufman

Choir

What is this Lovely Fragrance? - arr. by Healey Willan
Christmas Comes Anew - arr. by Ruth Artman

Celebrating the Mystery

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Quiet Reflection

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

Meditation

Sara Dick

Quiet Reflection

Hymn HWB 208

Love came down at Christmas

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

Longing for light (verses 3 & 4)

Benediction

Go and tell what you hear and see!

**God’s redeeming power transforms all that is broken.
*In the mystery of God’s transformation, there is love!***

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

Blessed be you, harsh matter, barren soil, stubborn rock: you who yield only to violence, you who force us to work if we would eat.

Blessed be you, perilous matter, violent sea, untamable passion: you who unless we fetter you will devour us.

Blessed be you, mighty matter, irresistible march of evolution, reality ever newborn; you who, by constantly shattering our mental categories, force us to go ever further and further in our pursuit of the truth.

Blessed be you, universal matter, immeasurable time, boundless ether, triple abyss of stars and atoms and generations: you who by overflowing and dissolving our narrow standards of measurement reveal to us the dimensions of God.

Blessed be you, impenetrable matter: you who, interposed between our minds and the world of essences, cause us to languish with the desire to pierce through the seamless veil of phenomena.

Blessed be you, mortal matter: you who one day will undergo the process of dissolution within us and will thereby take us forcibly into the very heart of that which exists.

You who batter us and then dress our wounds, you who resist us and yield to us, you who wreck and build, you who shackle and liberate, the sap of our souls, the hand of God, the flesh of Christ: it is you, matter, that I bless.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

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Sunday, December 15, 2013

Greeters: Anita & Stan Bohn, Gary & Gloria Rediger,
Connie & Kevin Regier
Musicians: Anita Bohn, Greta Hiebert, Cecil Mauduit, Karen Schlabaugh
and Shalom Choir
Visual Arts: Marlene Smucker
Sound and Closing: John Thiesen

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

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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