

# Shalom Mennonite Church

December 20, 2015

## *Advent 4: The Path of Love*

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

### Gathering in God's Presence

**Welcome** Edna Dick

**Hymn STJ 109** *There is more love somewhere*

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Our souls magnify you, our God.  
Our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

**People: You have looked with favor on your lowly servants;  
Because of you we are called "blessed."**

Leader: You have scattered the proud  
And brought down the mighty.

**People: You have raised up the lowly  
And filled the hungry.**

Leader: You have remembered your mercy,  
Helping those in need and their descendants forever.

**All: Praise. Praise God's Holy Name.**

### **Prayer**

#### Praising

**Special Music** Giovanna McQuillen Schnabel  
*Ave Maria* –Bach/Gounod

### Proclaiming the Word

**Children's Time** Hope Graber & friend  
*Nursery care for young children is available through the end of the service.*

**Hymn STJ 13** *My soul is filled with joy*

**Scripture Reading** Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-56

### **Quiet Reflection**

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

**Sermon** "Love" Rachel Ringenberg Miller

### **Quiet Reflection**

#### Responding to the Word

**Hymn STJ 32** *If you believe and I believe*

### **Prayer for Mercy**

Leader: Freedom is coming. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are drawing ever nearer to God's coming in Jesus. We feel the stirring of a new age.

**People: As we light this candle, we celebrate the good news, which breaks the powers of oppression and lifts up the lowly.**

Leader: We pray to be freed from the grip of privilege, power, control, and status that imprison us and shelter us from the suffering of others. Help us to stand in solidarity with all who suffer the brunt of history.

**People: As we light this candle, we are humbled by Mary's trust and boldness. We pray that like Mary we may be open to birth new hope.**

Leader: To trust in God's upside down Kingdom.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to free us.

### **Offertory and Prayer**

#### **Sharing Time and Introductions**

*During this time in the service we welcome visitors, invite responses to the worship service, hear about the work of our Ministry Teams, 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 216** *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

### **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.

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Shalom Mennonite Church  
(316) 283-7395  
www.shalomnewton.org  
9:30 am – Sunday School  
10:45 am – Worship

### **Upcoming Services**

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

**January 3 – Epiphany: The Path of Inclusion;** Sara Dick will be preaching on the text of Matthew 2:1-12.

**January 10 – Rachel Ringenberg Miller** will be starting a new series on stories from the ministry of Jesus.

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Greeters: Anita & Stan Bohn, Gary & Gloria Rediger  
Nursery Workers: Melodie Hatch, Zane Harder  
Musicians: Giovanna McQuillen Schnabel, Martha Unruh Szambecki  
Spanish Scripture Reader: Emily Kerbs  
Advent Candle Lighters: Anita & Stan Bohn  
Visual Arts: Twila Schrock  
Sound & Closing: Tim Buller  
Church Board Chair: Barth Hague

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### **Church Staff**

Rachel Ringenberg Miller,  
Pastor  
rachel@shalomnewton.org

Sara Dick,  
Associate Pastor  
sdick@shalomnewton.org

Hope Graber,  
Office Manager  
office@shalomnewton.org

## **Shalom Mennonite Church**

*Following Jesus, we risk love.*

# **The Path of Love**

*Advent 4*

December 20, 2015