

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 23, 2012

Flood of Mercy

Advent 4: Carried on the Flood of Hope

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to
a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered
the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leaped in her womb.*

Luke 1:39-41

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Sara Dick

Candle Lighting and Gathering Music

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify you, O God.

Our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior.

**You have looked with favor on your lowly servants;
because of you, we are called "blessed."**

You have scattered the proud
and brought down the mighty.

**You have raised up the lowly
and filled the hungry.**

*You have remembered your mercy,
helping those in need from generation to generation.*

Prayer of Invocation

Gathering Hymn HWB 16

God is here among us

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Megan and Toby Tyner

Hymn HWB 181

My soul proclaims with wonder

First Reading

Luke 1:39-55 (WB#840)

Quiet Reflection

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

Second Reading

Psalm 80:1-7

Quiet Reflection

Meditation

"the nourishment of tears"

Eric Massanari

*You have fed us with the bread of tears,
and given us tears to drink in full measure.*

Psalm 80:5

Quiet Reflection

Confession

May nourishment come through our tears.

May our hearts be opened in compassion.

(silence)

Restore your people, O God,

And let your face shine,

that we may be saved. Amen.

Hymn HWB 200

Where is this stupendous stranger

Responding to the Word

Offertory & Prayer

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 189

To us a child of hope is born

Benediction

Blessed are all who believe that there will be fulfillment
of what was spoken to them by the Lord.

God has done great things for us,
and holy is God's name.

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

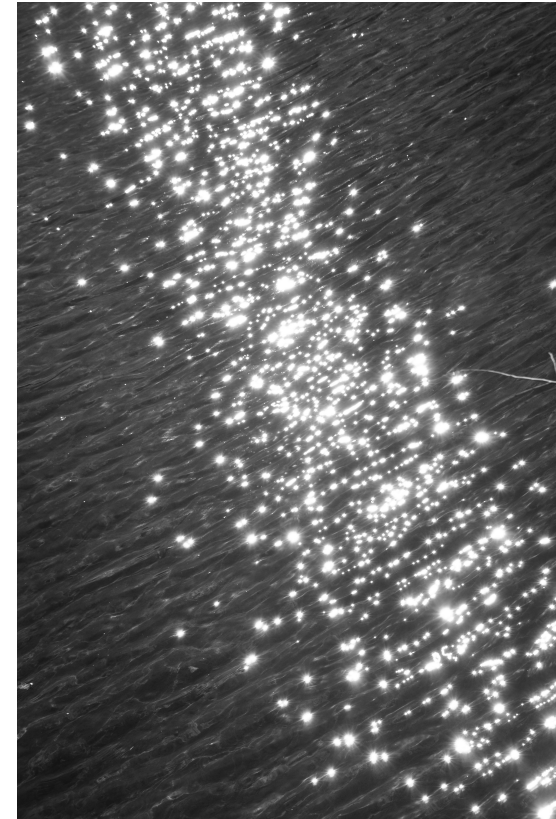
Flood of Mercy

Advent 4: Carried on a flood of hope

An elder once asked, “What is a compassionate heart?”

“It is a heart on fire for the whole of creation, for humanity, for the birds, for the animals, for demons and for all that exists. At the recollection and at the sight of them such a person's eyes overflow with tears owing to the vehemence of the compassion which grips his heart; as a result of his deep mercy his heart shrinks and cannot bear to hear or look on any injury or the slightest suffering of anything in creation. This is why such a person constantly offers up prayer full of tears, even for the irrational animals and for the enemies of truth, even for those who do harm, so that they may be protected and find mercy.”

- from the sayings of St. Isaac of Syria (7th century)



Sunday, December 23, 2012

Greeters: Kelvin & Lisa Bartel, Kristen Mayhue, Brett & Marathana Prothro
Musicians: Mark Schmidt Andres, Chris Dick, Christine Crouse-Dick
Visual Arts: David Kaufman
Sound System Operator/Closing: Tim Buller
Cover photo: Yolanda Kauffman

Pastor: Eric Massanari
Associate Pastor: Sara Dick
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 a.m.- Sunday School 10:45 a.m.- Worship
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