

# Shalom Mennonite Church

December 22, 2013

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*The mystery of God's dwelling in the child that is born!*

Gathering and Special Announcements

Debbie Schmidt

### *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

The sign we seek, the truth we need is the child born of a virgin.

**Let us experience the joy of this child!**

He shall be called, "God is with us,"

**and he will refuse evil and choose good.**

God's great love is revealed in this child.

***O, the mystery of God's dwelling in the child that is born!***

Hymn HWB 233

*Joyful is the dark* (verses 1 and 5)

### *Engaging the Mystery*

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

#### Confession and lighting the Advent wreath

Leader: The power of God is given to us in the weakness of human flesh. In this mysterious gift we experience God's compassion and love as we acknowledge our skepticism and lack of expectancy. The fourth Advent candle is the candle of joy.

**People: In this light, we receive forgiveness and rebirth,  
knowing that God dwells within the child that is born.**

Children's time

David and Sarah Kaufman

Hymn HWB 202

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy*

New Testament reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Quiet Reflection

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

### *Celebrating the Mystery*

Meditation

Incarnational Community

Rob Burdette

Quiet Reflection

Hymn of response and anointing HWB 181

*My soul proclaims with wonder*

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

Hymn STJ 54

*Longing for light*

Benediction

Receive the child who comes to establish God's dwelling!

**God is with us!**

***In the mystery of God's dwelling in the child, there is joy!***

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

## Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)

Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:

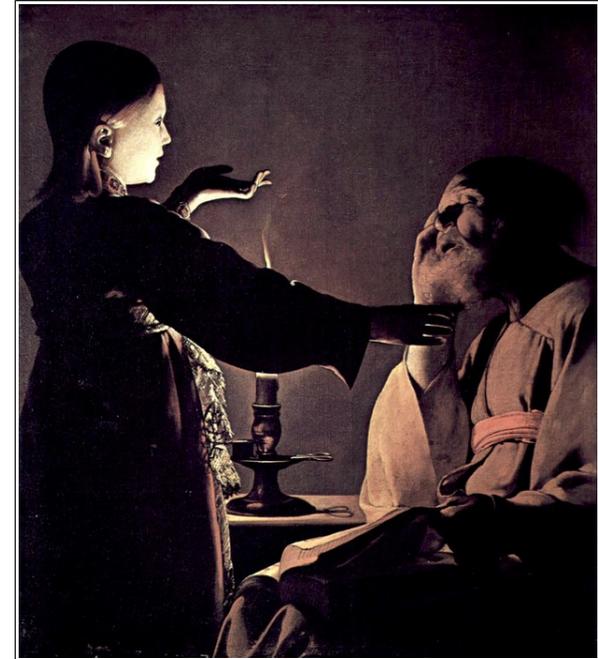
“De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,”  
será “Dios con nosotros,” hermano será,  
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”:  
One whose name is “God with us,” our Savior shall be,  
through whom hope will blossom once more  
within our hears.

- Alberto Taule, translated by Gertrude C. Suppe

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Sunday, December 22, 2013

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Greeters: Kristen Mayhue, Brett & Marathana Prothro,  
Dick & Mary Rempel  
Musicians: Martha Unruh Szambecki, Yvonne Bontrager  
Visual Arts: Marlene Smucker  
Sound and Closing: Russ Neufeld  
Bulletin Cover: Georges de La Tour (March 13, 1593 – Jan. 30, 1652)  
*The Dream of St. Joseph*, c. 1628-1645

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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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