



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent

A Service of the Word

*Together
on the
Journey*



The Magnificat,
by J. Tissot, 1899
watercolor on paper

Join the service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning:

[Zoom link:](#) or call in: Dial 253 215 8782, then enter Meeting ID: 283 224 109#

Or join us via our audio stream: [Spreaker](#)

Welcome to the worship service today.

We hope it is meaningful for you and welcome you to join us again.

As a Christian community, called by Jesus to be inclusive, caring, and peace-minded, we affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, or life situation are welcome to be in full participation in our congregation and in our denomination, MC USA.

Boulder Mennonite Church acknowledges that we are gathering on the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples. It was inhabited by the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Ochethi Sakowin Peoples. We affirm that settlers have specific responsibilities in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.



Boulder Mennonite Church is a vibrant, Jesus-centered community welcoming all people to know God and to be ambassadors of God's love, healing, and peace.

GATHERING

Prelude

***Singing** Wisdom from on high is dawning 238

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope adapted from Luke 1.26-38

Leader: We journey together, proclaiming God is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not afraid. Mary has conceived and will bear a son, and she will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High! Love's reign is near!

People: We light a candle for Love, joining hands in solidarity and in the love of Christ.

The Advent Candle is lit...

Leader: With our whole heart we meet together, to learn the Ways of Love.

All: *Nothing is impossible with God! May our journey together teach us the Way of mercy and compassion, patience, faithful love, and forgiveness. Let us worship God!*

Singing Love is a candle, vv. 3, 5 211

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing How many times we start again 553

Confession and Assurance adapted from The Magnificat

Congregational response: "Teach us to love."

A time of silence for reflection and prayer...

Passing the Peace

Singing Love came down at Christmas, vv. 1, 3 255

A Moment in Mission: Family in Crisis Fund

Offering Invitation/Blessing

Please place your prayer requests in the basket with your offering.

At home: please type your prayer requests into the “Chat” column on Zoom or send them via email at least 2hrs prior to the worship service. Or [click here to donate online](#).

Offertory

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

Gospel Reading

from Luke 1

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, **“Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”**

Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, **“Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus— ‘Creator Sets Free.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Son of the Most High... and his reign will never end.**

“Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.” Mary said, **“I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that, the angel left her.**

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to the town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with Holy spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, **“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** But why am I so favored, that the mother of God’s Anointed One should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Mary said: **“My soul magnifies God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.**

For you, Almighty God, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who reverence you. **You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of your people, mindful of your mercy— the promise you made to our ancestors— to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”**

Singing

Go tell it on the mountain, v. 3

252

Now Testament Reading

The Face of Christ, Oscar Romero

Advent should admonish us to discover in each brother or sister that we greet,
in each friend whose hand we shake,
in each beggar who asks for bread,
in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union,
in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves,
the face of Christ.

Then it would not be possible to rob them, to cheat them, to deny them their rights.
They are Christ, and whatever is done to them, Christ will take as done to himself.
This is what Advent is: Christ living among us. (December 3, 1978)

Reflection

Um, yes, she knew!

RESPONDING

Singing

My soul cries out

412

Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Love dawns on a weary world, v.2

205

Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality; NRSV, CEB and First Nations Version

Cover art: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/4425>

"The Violence of Love" by Oscar Romero, Compiled and translated by James R. Brockman, S. J.

<https://www.romerotrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/violenceoflove.pdf>

Worship resources adapted from Leader, Fall 2024, MennoMedia

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader:	Cheri Krause
Readers:	Laura Minter, Douglas Minter
Music:	Judy Classen, Justin Mathis, Randy Spaulding
Tech Support:	Steve Voran, Elleanna Voran
Greeters:	Ezra & Joan Tice
Moment for All Ages:	Judy Classen

Moment in Mission:

Cindy Firnhaber

Snacks:

Elvira Glenn, Sandi Sanborn, Gus Gouvas

December 15:

Attendance: 55

Offering: \$5,225

TODAY at BMC

9:30a Worship and mingling
11:00a No Education Hour – Holiday break
11:30a Christmas/Epiphany Visual Task Force

THIS WEEK at BMC

12/24 Christmas Eve Soup Potluck, 5:30pm
12/24 Christmas Eve Carols and Candles, 6:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY – December 29: First Sunday in the Season of Christmastide

9:30am Worship and mingling
11:00am No education hour

Guest Speaker: Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
Worship Leader: Berit Jany
Readers: Sandi Sanborn, Becky Neumann
Music: Jean McPherson, Susan Graber
Tech Support: Alfred Sawatzky
Greeters: Karl Ortman, Becky Neumann
Snacks: Scott Woods, Gus Gouvas

COMING UP

12/29 Worship at BMC: Guest Speaker Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
1/1/25 New Year's Day
2025 500th Anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement!
1/1 Centering Prayer, 11am
1/6 Epiphany
1/9 PCRC, 9am
1/9 Church Council, 5pm
1/14 Singing Group, 6:30pm
1/15 Centering Prayer small group, 11am
1/17 MSMC Road Trip to Roca de Refugio in TX
1/20 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/24-26 [Jr. High Snow Camp](#) at RMMC
2/14-16 [Sr. High Snow Camp](#) at RMMC

~PRAYERS~

- ~from **Jen Dudenhefer**: Prayers to all the **youth** for finals this week. Our team learned of our co-worker's passing while she was visiting family in Vietnam. Prayers of comfort to Jen, her co-worker's and the family of **Han Nguyen**.
- ~from **Abe and Carol**: Thank you **Pastor Randy** and **Gary** for bringing us together in our community, our church and in your home.
- ~for: My brother **Nick Gouvas**, in Melbourne Australia; he's been in the hospital for twelve days already. ~**Gus Gouvas**
- ~for **Douglas Minter's** lifelong and childhood friend, **Mark Liechty**, who received a new heart after a four year wait. Hallelujah!
- ~from [Community Peacemaker Teams](#): Pray that authorities in US sanctuary cities and states resist helping with the proposed deportations; that all the affected migrants will be treated justly and humanely; that a better way can be found; and pray for all those who are preparing to help the migrants caught in this terrible situation.

December Birthdays	December Anniversaries
2 – Karl Ortman	6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus
10 – Cindi Fausel	31 – Jonathan & Debra Falk
15 – Carol Grasse	
16 – Kent Olson	
18 – Bennet Mathis	

Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 7:00am.

DEACONS: Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712; Toni Diaz Bachus: 303-579-4290

PASTOR RANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8am to 2pm.

Friday: 9am to noon (subject to visitation/meetings). Appointments/call-aheads are encouraged. Pastor Randy normally takes Monday as a Sabbath.

CHURCH ADMINSTRATOR: Ivanna is in the office on Tuesday from 6:30a to 2:30p and Wednesday from 6a to 2p.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

THE FAMILY IN CRISIS FUND was established about 20 years ago through this church to help the people of South Africa. While we were there, we used the funds to help with medications

that people needed, school fees, food for families and support the love of Christ children's home. This home takes in abandoned babies and tries to reunite with family members, adoption in South Africa or International adoption (rare). TLC has now expanded their role into not only taking in abandoned babies/children but working with mothers so they can keep their babies. This is done through trauma therapy, teaching them skills to raise children and skills for employment. Some of the mothers live on location to learn and grow for up to 3 years. Others are from the local community in nearby townships. TLC also has a feeding scheme and also hires local people from the township to help care for the babies (vetted by child social services), growing a large vegetable garden, chickens and maintenance. Their electricity is about 85% solar. Please consider giving to the Family in Crisis fund through the BMC website or write a check to BMC with family in crisis in the memo. *Thank you! ~The Firnhabers*

CHRISTMAS EVE: Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship at our SOUP POTLUCK DINNER at 5:30pm and a time of worship at the CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE at 6:30pm. Bring one accompaniment (bread, crackers, veggies, or dessert) to go with your soup. **Those helping to set up for the soup dinner today, please meet downstairs after snack time to set up. Thank you!**



ANOTHER ROUND OF THANKS TO OUR YOUTH who led our worship service last Sunday. You are appreciated and beloved by this faith community!

THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE is here! Many years in the making, this bible was produced with reflections, commentary and theological wisdom in an Anabaptist perspective. Boulder Mennonite Church participated in providing commentary and reflections, which are included in this little treasure to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025. Take a look at it after worship – a copy will be at the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to order your own copy, see Pastor Randy

CHURCH ADMIN HELP NEEDED. Our BMC administrator, Ivanna Johnson, is taking some time off in early 2025 (Jan – March). So, we are looking for some BMCers who may be able to spend time in the office or remotely to do some admin work, working on parts of the Sunday bulletin, checking emails, working with the worship schedule, managing building rentals, greeting folks who come to the door during the week, etc. If you are interested, please see Pastor Randy. Thank you!

ALL ROADS: [The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless](#) sends thanks for the support they have received from our congregation. As of July, it was rebranded as "All Roads", emphasizing their program's focus on housing issues and not just on the shelter.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE: Hundreds of MDS volunteers have made a big difference in western North Carolina. As the early response phase drew to a close during the

first week in December, long-term recovery from Hurricane Helene was just beginning. MDS volunteer Steve Haskins spent a month in the region, first assessing damages then identifying how MDS could best help homeowners. To read the full article please click [here](#).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP: January 24-26, 2025 Plan now to attend the Scrapbook Retreat. This weekend is a great time to work on preserving photos and placing them in books to keep the memories alive. Participants work on their own projects during the weekend, creating paper or digital photo books. Register at [Scrapbook Retreat | Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp](#)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Subscribe to PeaceMail to receive MC USA’s blogs, news and resources in one weekly email. Subscribe to PeaceMail [here](#).

Menno Snapshots: A few weeks ago, Matt Pritchard, associate conference minister of emerging communities for MC USA’s Central District Conference, read “A Confession of Evangelical Conviction,” a non-partisan statement endorsed by more than 300 evangelical pastors, leaders and organizations. Read more [here](#).

Archival Tips: Olivia Krall, archives coordinator for the MC USA Archives, provides helpful archival tips for those interested in preserving their family history. Learn more [here](#).

Women In Leadership Steering Committee: Pastor Katerina Gea, a member of MC USA’s Women in Leadership Steering Committee, shares about the Community Care and Trauma Healing gatherings her church has been hosting to support Palestinian solidarity. Read more [here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: When we light the lights for Christmas, let us remember those people in places that do not have reliable electricity, such as South Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and often these days, even Cuba. As we celebrate Christ as the Light of the World, let us give thanks for the natural resources from the earth that provide us with light, warmth, shelter, and food.



Donate to BMC



Boulder Mennonite Church
is a member congregation of Mountain States
Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA
and in affiliation with the Church of the Brethren

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