

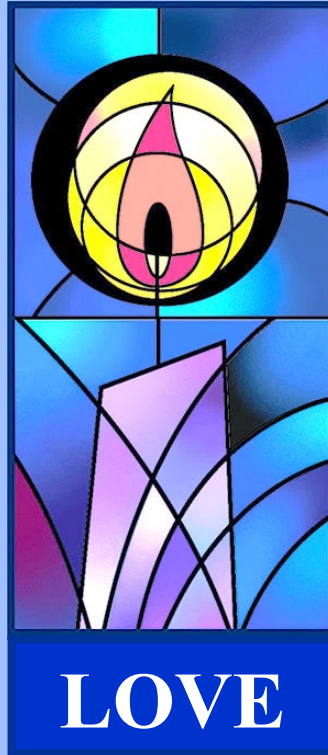


Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent: Love

A Service of the Word



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 Ojethi 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

Bell and Silence

(Rest in quietness, breathe deeply. Listen to your heart. Listen to God.)

***Singing** O come, O come Immanuel, vv. 1, 6, 7 210

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

adapted from Luke 1.30-35

Leader: We gather in holy space to hear holy words:

All: *Do not be afraid.*

Leader: We gather in holy time to hear a holy promise:

All: *Mary's child will reign forever.*

Leader: We gather in this holy moment to sense the holy in our midst:

All: *Come, Holy Spirit. May the power of the Most High overshadow us.
Let us worship this day with anticipation and joy.*

Singing Hope is a candle, vv. 1, 2, 3, 4 211

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing Love came down at Christmas 254

Confession and Assurance

Leader: God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.

All: *We offer our confession. May our hearts be healed; may our sins be forgiven.*

(silence)

Leader: In the Way of Jesus, your love is revealed—

All: *a power with and for the vulnerable; a power held in mercy and grace.*

(silence)

Leader: In the Light of the Anointed child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

All: Amen.

Passing the Peace

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

Gospel Reading

adapted from Luke 2.1-20

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds abiding in the fields and keeping night watch over their flocks by night. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the city of David, a savior—the Anointed One—has been born to you. And this will be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.”**

Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”**

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **“Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.”** They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

Now Testament Reading

Living Good News, Kathy Galloway

This good news—that we are loved, that we can love—needs one thing more to make Christmas really good. It needs to be shared. Not hugged to ourselves, like a private affair, not even kept within the safety of church walls. It needs to be told out, not in words but in action. The word became flesh, not mere words. It lived among us. We give glory to God by *living* good news, by being the word of love become flesh; in our healing of wounds, in our restoring of right relationships, in our struggle for justice, in our daily care-giving, in our delight in life.

Christmas and Easter are one. Without an Easter faith, our Christmas celebrations are childish and partial, and, in the end, not so much frivolous as tragic. With an Easter faith, Christmas is a means to discover the absolutely precious gift at the center.

Reflection

Incarnation Begins Here

RESPONDING

Singing

Now the heavens start to whisper

237

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

Infant holy, infant lowly

243

Resources used in worship:
Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality
Kathy Galloway, *Getting Personal* (London: SPCK, 1995), p. 96, in Resources for Preaching and Worship, Year B

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

- Speaker:**

Pastor Randy Spaulding
- Worship Leader:**

Joan Tice
- Readers:**

Lisa Voss, Joanna Harrison
- Music:**

Randy Spaulding, Judy Classen
- Tech Support:**

Alfred Sawatzky
- Greeters:**

Paul Classen, Michelene Fast
- Snacks:**

Toni Diaz

December 14:

Attendance: 48

Offering: \$2,446

TODAY at BMC

9:30a Worship
10:45a Snacks and Connecting time, Set-up for Christmas Eve Service
11:00a Education Hour: Book Study, *Strange Worship*, Pastor Randy, facilitator

THIS WEDNESDAY – December 24: Christmas Eve Soup Potluck, Carols and Candlelight



5:30pm: Soup Potluck – lower level.
 Bring one accompaniment (bread, crackers, veggies, or
 dessert) **to go with your soup.**
6:30pm: Carols and Candlelight Service, sanctuary



THIS THURSDAY – December 25: No services on BMC campus: Merry Christmas!

NEXT SUNDAY – December 28, 2025: 1st Sunday in the Season of Christmastide

9:30am Worship – Mennonite-Taizé Prayer, Scripture and Song service
10:45am Connecting and Snacks
11:00am No Education hour – Christmas break

Speaker:	Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader:	Douglas Minter
Readers:	Becky Neumann, Joanna Harrison
Music:	Judy Classen, Barry Janzen
Tech Support:	Steve & Elleanna Voran
Greeters:	Lisa Voss, Toni Diaz
Snacks:	Elvira Glenn, Sandi Sanborn

COMING UP

1/6 Epiphany
1/11 Young Adult Peace Camp
1/11 Farewell for Randy & Gary after worship. See Carole or Susan for questions.
1/16-18 Jr. High Snow Camp @RMMC
1/23-24 Kingian Nonviolent training, Wichita, KS
1/30-2/1 Scrapbook retreat @RMMC
2/13-2/15 Young Adult Snow Camp @RMMC
3/7 Faith & Life Forum (MSMC), 9:30a Glennon Heights
4/17-19 Women's retreat @Highlands Presbyterian Retreat Center, Allens Park, CO

~PRAYERS~

- ~from Community Peacemaker Teams: Please pray for [migrants and asylum seekers on the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos](#) and beyond, for those wrongly accused and imprisoned, and for the humanitarians facing trial for acts of compassion, that truth, justice, and dignity may prevail. Please pray also for courts and authorities, that fear and suspicion may give way to wisdom, accountability, and the shared recognition that saving lives is not a crime.
- ~for **Colorado residents** who have had power outages due to the high winds. Prayers of gratitude that **Community Food Share** did not lose power this time.
- ~for those struggling with loneliness, health issues and personal struggles during the Christmas season.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
2 – Karl Ortman 10 – Cindi Fausel 15 – Carol Grasse 16 – Kent Olson 18 – Bennett Mathis	6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus 31 – Jonathan & Debra Falk
<i>Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!</i>	

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

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

DEACONS: Douglas Minter: 303-819-5248; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712; Toni Diaz Bachus: 303-579-4290

PASTOR RANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday: 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: Tuesdays and Wednesdays until noon.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

CHRISTMAS EVE: Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship at a **SOUP POTLUCK DINNER** at 5:30pm, and a time of worship at the **CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE** on December 24 at 6:30pm. It's traditionally our biggest social event of the year! We invite you to bring a pot of soup, and one accompaniment (bread, crackers, veggies, or dessert) to go with your soup. Also -- please sign up to help with set-up or clean-up on the list on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thanks!

NEED A SNACK PROVIDER: Snack time is a very important social time at BMC. We all appreciate the faithful snack providers. A volunteer is needed to fill the position on the second Sunday of the odd months. In addition to providing snacks, the volunteer also does the set up and clean up on their Sunday. Let me know if you are interested or need more information. ~Elvira Glenn, elvira.glenn37@gmail.com

BMC SOCK PROJECT: Thanks to all who have donated socks for clients at the [All Roads-Boulder Shelter for the Homeless](#). Socks are the number one requested item during the winter months. Pastor Randy will deliver them this week.



~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

THE HOMECOMING: Mennonites reckon with the legacy of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church (KIMC) in Clinton, Oklahoma, honored 19 Cheyenne and Arapaho children from OK whose lives ended more than a century ago at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. After the US Army began returning bodies of children buried at the Indian boarding school, KIMC became involved in repatriating the children to native land. **Boulder Mennonite Church** participated with youth scholarship funds to help youth at KIMC create traditional burial regalia for the children's burial. [Read more here.](#)

REIMAGINING MC USA: Mennonite Church USA invites you to join the new Reimagining MC USA initiative — a denomination-wide process of prayerful reflection and open dialogue about our shared future. Visit the new web portal to watch a four-part video series, download the small-group discussion guide and share your ideas in a survey. Learn more [here](#).

THE ANNUAL MCC U.S. NATIONAL PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES high school essay contest is now open! This essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities. Submissions may be in English or Spanish. (*A continuación véase la información en español.*) The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools within the United States, including Puerto Rico. Regional prizes will be awarded, with the top three essays being submitted to the national competition. Regional top prize is \$200 and the national contest grand prize is \$1000. Contest topics, rules and resources can be found [here](#). The deadline for submitting entries is February 27, 2026. Essays should be submitted to centralstates@mcc.org, questions can be directed to beckyteiwes@mcc.org.

A NEW ISSUE OF ZING! IS NOW AVAILABLE: Click on this [link](#) to see the December issue. Included is information about the Faith & Life Forum, photos from the credentialed leaders retreat, and more!

SAVE THE DATE – BELONGING AND BOUNDARIES FAITH & LIFE FORUM: This years Faith & Life Forum will be held at Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, in Lakewood, on Saturday, March 7, from 9:30a-3p. Belonging and boundaries is the theme. , Ross Erb, MSW, Associate Director of the Collins Child Advocacy Center and Moriah Hurst, Pastor of Child, Youth and Adult Faith Formation at Assembly Mennonite Church, will facilitate a discussion and training on the beauty and challenges of intergenerational connections. More information to come.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE: *Thank you, BMC, for your generous support to CFS this month! This has been a particularly difficult time for our neighbors given the recent shutdown and SNAP lapse and it means so much to have you all alongside us. We'd love to have the congregation in for a volunteer day sometimes!*

HOMELESS PERSON'S MEMORIAL VIGIL: For the 37th year in a row, join the Denver Community on December 21st from 4:30pm to 5:00pm on Sunday evening in front of the steps of the Denver City and County Building. For more information click [here](#). Last year they had a live stream of the event as well. Carpools are available from Arvada United Methodist Church at 3:30 PM.

ECOLOGY TIP: Are you still looking for a few last-minute gifts? If they are for local people, consider giving the gift of yourself, by way of coupons for various services or favors! Some examples are: cooking a meal once a month, four hours' worth of yard work, hosting a fun evening of games and snacks, or taking your friend or family member on a mystery adventure! Design a colorful coupon (or book of coupons) and be creative! This requires little or no money, no wrapping paper, and no long-distance delivery pollution!



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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