



Welcome to  
**Boulder Mennonite Church**  
Sunday, November 29, 2020

## **A Service of the Word**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the Season of Advent*



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

for Zoom video live, click here: [Zoom](#), or call in:

Dial 253 215 8782, then enter Meeting ID: 283 224 109#

**Or**

To join us via audio stream (if possible), click here: [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.

3910 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80305

(303) 443-3889 • [www.bouldermennonite.org](http://www.bouldermennonite.org) • [info@bouldermennonite.org](mailto:info@bouldermennonite.org)



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

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Singing

O come, O come, Immanuel, v.1

VT 210

Text: anon, O Antiphons, ca. 8-9<sup>th</sup> c. CE, trans. John Neale, 1851; Music: trope melody, 15<sup>th</sup> c., VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Im - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Hope of God ap - pear.

### Refrain

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Im - man - ue - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

### Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, look around you. The time is ripe for Hope's coming.

All: *It has been a long road. The earth is silent, the shadows are thick, our world is in upheaval, and Hope often seems hidden.*

Leader: People of God, stay alert. The season of Hope's coming has arrived.

All: *How will Hope be revealed? Will it be like a fire, an earthquake, a vaccine or a knock at the door?*

Leader: People of God, keep watch. Hope comes in places and at times we least expect.

All: *Without Hope's presence, we wither and die. We are blown away like a leaf in the wind. Restore us, O God: let Hope shine on us, that we may be saved.*

# Welcome

## CELEBRATING & PRAISING

### Singing

### Sing a carol for the season

Text: RLS Music: Felix Mendelssohn; adapt. William Cummings; MENDELSSOHN

1. Sing a car - ol for the seas - on, sing of snow on asp - en trees;  
2. Bright the sun - shine on the Flat - irons, pine trees spark - le in the sun;  
3. Black hawk, Eag - le, lift your voice, Prair - ie dog, red fox, re - jice;

Sing of win - ter in the Rock - ies, frost - y blows the moun - tain breeze.  
Wheth - er snow or san - dy beach - es, Christ - mas joy to ev - ery - one!  
Griz - zly bears and panth - ers roar: Jus - tice comes to all the poor.

Joy - ful, wel - come Ad - vent car - ols, Sing of hopes and dreams and her - alds.  
Tell the sto - ry of new birth, glad hope comes to all the earth.  
Let this Ad - vent time in - still in our hearts a great good - will,

Sing we all a song of peace: "now let hate and war - fare cease!"  
Fear and sor - row flee a - way, greet the new and dawn - ing day!  
We will sing and heed the call: be the love of God to all!

### Centering Prayer

## **Passing the Peace**

### **Offering Invitation/Blessing**

*Please type your prayer requests into the “Chat” column on Zoom or send them via email at least 2hrs prior to the worship service.*

### **Offertory**

## **HEARING**

### **A Moment for All Ages**

#### **Hebrew Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 64.1-9

The prophet cries: Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would shake before you! As fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil, make your Name known to your adversaries, and let the nations tremble before you! When you did awesome things that we could not have expected, you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!

From ages past no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen any God but you intervening for those who wait for you! Oh, that you would find us doing right, that we would be mindful of you in our ways! You are angry because we are sinful; we sinned for so long—how can we be saved? All of us became unclean and soiled, even our good deeds are polluted. We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

No one calls upon your Name, there is none who clings to you, for you hid your face from us and delivered us into the hands of our sins. Yet you are our mother and father, the Eternal One; we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands. Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God, don't remember our sins forever, for we are all your people.

#### **Gospel Reading**

Mark 13.24-37

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the Temple, he told his friends:

“But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these

things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten—no one but Abba God. Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come.

“It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert. So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

## Singing

## Gloria

VT 94

Text: Latin, Luke 2.14; Music: Jacques Berthier GLORIA III



Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

## Now Testament Reading

Rev. Susan Hill, *Jesus calls us to a reckoning*

At the end of our gospel passage, Jesus counsels us to keep awake since we do not know when he will come. But actually, I think that in keeping awake, we will notice that he is already here. He is present every time we pay attention to power dynamics and systemic inequality around us. He is with us in love when we believe women who have been victimized and we help them tell their stories. He is here when we call abusers and predators out for objectifying and abusing other human beings and hold them accountable. He is at work within us when we painfully admit to our own... struggle to love others as we love ourselves. If we can keep awake and pay attention and have these difficult conversations and truly have the reckoning he is calling us to, we will ourselves be modeling Jesus' love and hope and promise in the world.

If we are brave enough to go through this time of reckoning, we will find this Advent season that in each and every one of us, the Jesus we are all waiting for and preparing for is already here, giving us the grace, as our collect today says, to cast away the darkness and put on the armor of light; to live as he did, in the power of love!

## Message

*Watch*

# RESPONDING

## Singing

## Now the heavens start to whisper

VT 237

Text: Mary Louise Bringle; Music: Welsh trad, harm. Alfred Fedak, 1011

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veils is grow - ing thin.  
2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,

Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faith with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and frag - rance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.

seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - ses stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view:

Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come in.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans the full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come in.  
child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you!

## Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

# SENDING

## Announcements

## Benediction

### Sending Song

O come, O come, Emmanuel, v.3

VT 210

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Sa-tan's tyr-an-ny.  
From depths of hell thy peo-ple save, and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain  
Re-joice! Re-joice! Im-man-ue-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.

### Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Sing a carol, Text © 2011, 2018 Randy Spaulding

Now the heavens, Text: © 2006 GIA; Music, © 2011 Alfred Fedak, OneLicense 728744-A

Rev. Susan E. Hill, *Jesus Calls Us to a Reckoning*, <https://sojo.net/preaching-the-word/jesus-calls-us-reckoning?parent=52271>

### Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

<b>Speaker:</b>	Pastor Randy Spaulding
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Ezra Tice
<b>Advent Candle Lighting:</b>	Lily Mast
<b>Readers:</b>	Becky and Alfred Sawatzky
<b>Music:</b>	Eve Kia, Pastor Randy, Lily Mast
<b>A Moment for All Ages</b>	Pastor Randy
<b>Tech Support:</b>	Steve Voran
<b>Attendees:</b>	Everyone

November 22, 2020

Attendance: 63    Offering: \$ 660

## TODAY at BMC

9:30am

Worship and mingling via Zoom, Spreaker and BMC campus.

## THIS WEEK at BMC

- Today 2:30p Changing World Small Group <https://zoom.us/j/91673889670>  
12/2 Midweek Check-in with Pastor Randy, 5p. Click to join Midweek Check-in here: Zoom, or dial 301-715-8592. Meeting ID: 283 224 109#  
12/3 Centering Prayer Small Group, 11:30am

## NEXT SUNDAY – December 6

Worship and BMC Birthday Auction

## COMING UP

12/13 Voices Together digital dedication launch event

## ~PRAYERS~

- ~from **Becky and Alfred Sawatzky**: our son, **Joel**, had a close friend who took his life this last week. Pray for Joel, his friends, and **Jonny's family and friends**.  
~for **Bill Knight** as he continues to heal after his surgery and for his upcoming surgery on 12/1.  
~healing prayers for **Dr. Melissia Smith**, godmother to Ivanna Johnson's son, Julian. Dr. Smith has tested positive for Covid. Prayers for a speedy recover and good health for her family.

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

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

**DEACONS**: Steve Voran: 303-499-6843; Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527;  
Paul Classen: 316-217-2355.

**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 9:30-3:30 and Thursday from 11:30-5:30.

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
1 – Suzanne Classen	14 – Carter McKay Epp	6 – Dick & Gretchen Williams
1 – Carolyn Clement	20 – Debrah Falk	
1 – Martin Pesin	22 – Benjamin Falk	

## ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

### **PRAYERSTREAM: ADVENT TO EPIPHANY, A SEASON FOR THE SENSES**

**Tuesday mornings 7:00 - 7:45am, beginning Dec. 1 and concluding Jan. 5.**

All are welcome for this informal contemplative series. We'll gather for reflection and silence as our hemisphere turns toward winter and our world turns toward a new year. This series will invite us to "wonder as we wander" through the long nights. We'll weave the content of our faith with the context of our times each week focusing on one of our senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, smell and intuition. This is simply one of many invitations to tend well in this season of expectancy. A collaboration with Brenda Fox (Prayerstream Enterprises), Anita Amstutz (Soul Tending) and Randy Spaulding (Boulder Mennonite Church). Join with link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85677374617?pwd=L0ZJeHcrSFk4VzZ0K3c5U2ZKcUVRZz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7737 4617      Passcode: 6dwyKy

**FROM BILL KNIGHT:** *Oh my goodness! How sweet it has been and continues to be for me to hear from so many of you Mennonites. It gives me a "peace" that passes understanding. The first surgery ... was successful and I am out of the hospital and now back home. I will have my defective Aortic heart valve replaced on 12/1 (next Tuesday). I know your thoughts, letters, calls and prayers helped me through the first rough patch so please do it again next Tuesday about noon. This is the big one and they will stop my heart to fix it. **I am leaning into the mystery of it all. It's all good! Blessings to you and to my entire Mennonite extended family-- from my house to yours.***

## ~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

**BMC'S BIRTHDAY** we will be celebrating with a Zoom auction on Sunday, December 6.

Auction will start about 15 minutes after the worship service ends. Donations of breads, rolls, soups, casseroles, pies will be live auctioned, and non-consumable items are welcome too.

Donors will be responsible for getting items to buyers. Should this be an issue, let Anne Brubacher know. Please submit donations to [annebrubacher@hotmail.com](mailto:annebrubacher@hotmail.com) or link the Boulder Mennonite Webpage that is live and ready to go. Click here: [BMC Auction](#).

**HARVEST OF HOPE** BMC donated 112 pounds of food to Harvest of Hope in November. We need 4 individuals to help pack and serve lunches for approximately 60 Harvest of Hope clients, from 12pm-2pm on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Harvest of Hope will be closed that week, but still anticipate clients in need of lunch. Please contact Cindy Firnhaber for more information.



**INGRID ENCALADA LATORRE** is hosting a virtual concert on Sun., Dec. 13, from 4-5:30p MST to commemorate her 3<sup>rd</sup> year living in sanctuary. We will have musicians from across the US performing for us. We will host the event on Zoom, register at this link: <https://forms.gle/mKVpC9m12fcvcUJ6>. We will send you the Zoom link by email the morning of the concert. Our fundraising goal for this concert is \$3,000, for Ingrid's personal expenses during the holiday season. If you have questions, please contact Katie Larson at 402.689.6433 or at [teamingrid1@gmail.com](mailto:teamingrid1@gmail.com)

**WINTER WEATHER GEAR** for the homeless. Please consider donating your old winter weather gear to the homeless. This is a collaboration with Prayerstream, Mean Street Ministries and Mountain Community Mennonite. Throughout the season we will be collecting items such as: coats, jackets, boots, handwarmers, blankets, tents, socks, gloves, mittens, sleeping bags and lightweight backpacks to donate to the homeless. Drop your items to Ivanna at the church and we will make sure they are given to those in need.

**COMMENDATIONS TO BMC** for their great work with putting together MCC school kits.  
~Rhoda Blough, Everence Representative

**NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING** Revisionist history would have us believe Thanksgiving is a happy holiday that began when Pilgrims and "Indians" sat down to a great feast. And that did happen – once. In 1637, in present day Connecticut, over 700 members of the **Pequot Tribe** had gathered for their annual **Green Corn Festival**, which is our Thanksgiving. During the small hours of the morning, as the Pequot slept, English and Dutch Puritans ordered them outside, where they were shot or clubbed to death, those that remained inside were burned alive. The following day, the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony declared "A Day of Thanksgiving, this day forth shall be a day of celebration and thanksgiving for subduing the Pequots." Several massacres of Native Americans happened after the [Pequot massacre](#), and each was celebrated with a thanksgiving feast. Eventually, George Washington suggested that there be only one day of Thanksgiving per year. Finally, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving Day to be a national holiday. Please remember the Pequot and all the other Indigenous tribes that were also giving thanks to the Creator, when they were massacred. The following are some suggestions for an **alternative Thanksgiving**: Held on Thanksgiving, the [National Day of Mourning](#) is a protest, held annually in Plymouth Massachusetts, where protestors, in lieu of celebrating Thanksgiving, acknowledge the historical trauma that the Native American people have suffered at the hands of the colonizers. Additionally, on Thanksgiving

day, at Alcatraz Island, in the San Francisco Bay, individuals honor Indigenous people and acknowledge their humanity, in what is called [Unthanksgiving Day, also known as Indigenous Peoples Sunrise Ceremony](#). [The National Day of Listening](#), created by [StoryCorps](#), falls annually the day after Thanksgiving. It was created to promote the listening of stories of marginalized groups to broaden perspectives and to hear from those with whom you may not otherwise be in contact. These are difficult realities for us, but they are part of our [own Anabaptist/Mennonite work at dismantling racism and oppression](#).

## MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

**MENNONITE FEEDING STATION** Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern-day Mennonite feeding station – your home! Get one for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16” in diameter and 2” deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>.



## MENNONITE CHURCH USA

**FROM OUR CONGOLESE MENNONITE KINDRED:** *“In this time made difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic, our thoughts travel around the world to extend compassion to fellow Anabaptists in our global community. The news... informs us that the U.S. is the country most impacted by the new coronavirus. So, we send our love and our empathy. We have faith that those who hope in God will never be beaten down. We join ourselves to you in prayer, and we ask the Eternal God to multiply protection for you and to bring an end to this pandemic. Let’s stay connected and united in Christ. Let us live in solidarity with each other. With love and blessings from ~your brothers and sisters of Congolese Mennonite Literacy Program.”*

**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**, a ministry of Mennonite Church USA, held three webinars and an online worship service this fall as an alternative to its annual **Women Doing Theology conference**. View all of the “What We Need Is Here” events at [www.mennoniteusa.org/wil](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wil).

**“SOMETIMES WE OVERLOOK THE IMPORTANCE OF CAMPS IN FAITH FORMATION** and leadership development,” said Shana Peachey Boshart, Mennonite Church USA denominational minister for Faith Formation, in a recent article, “Mennonite camps get creative in response to COVID-19.” Read more: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mennonite-camps/>

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA ARCHIVES** has completed its move of digital content to the Mennonite Archive Information Database, an online database representing 14 Anabaptist partners in the United States and Canada. Now, users can enjoy single-point web access to an expansive catalog of archival photographs and finding aids for faster and easier searching. Check it out: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/historical-archives/>



### **ECOLOGY TIP:**

We all know that polystyrene foam made for thermal insulation, more commonly known as Styrofoam, is extremely harmful to the Earth. When exposed to sunlight, it creates harmful air pollutants, contaminates landfills, and depletes the ozone layer. It never biodegrades! It also contains carcinogens that are hazardous to humans, as the toxins are released by hot foods and liquids in the containers. To sign a letter to ban food-grade polystyrene in Colorado, go to <http://www.ecocycle.org/take-action/reduce-plastic#Sign%20Letter> to sign. It takes about a minute, and will let your vote be heard, hopefully resulting in much better health for all of us and the planet.



*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**

A member congregation of  
Mountain States Mennonite Conference and  
Mennonite Church USA