Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church
Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent

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 • churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org
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.

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

GATHERING

Prelude O Holy Night

*Singing The first Noel, vv. 1, 2 VT 250

Call to Worship
Leader: The nights are long, but soon the light will appear.
People: God’s love is with us.
Leader: God is present with us today – in friendly greetings, bright eyes, clear singing and words of peace.
People: God’s love is with us.
Leader: We prepare to welcome the Child that will show us the Way.
People: God’s love is with us.

Singing Solemn stillness, weary streets VT 276

Candle Litany
Leader: We light a candle of Love. And we dare to imagine:
People: The lowly lifted up, our fear met with courage and love.
Leader: We light the Advent candles of Hope… Peace… Joy… and Love.

The Advent candles are lit...

We light our candles and pray for God’s face to shine on us, to heal us and restore us.

All: We dare to imagine that… we are God’s wonders, blessed wonders.

Singing Angels we have heard on high, vv. 1, 3 VT 249

Welcome
CELEBRATING & PRAISING

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

Confession and Assurance
Congregational response: “Teach us to love.”
A time of silence for reflection and prayer...

Passing the Peace

Musical Offering
Joy to the World

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
“God’s Dream”
Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams (Illustrated by LeUyen Pham)

Singing
Angels from the realms of glory, v. 1

Gospel Reading
Luke 1.39-55

Singing
What child is this/Helpless and hungry

Message
Dancing Saints – revisited

RESPONDING

Singing
I danced in the morning (Lord of the Dance)
Words & Music: Sydney Carter. Tune: SIMPLE GIFTS
1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, And I danced in the moon and the
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, But they would not dance and they
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame; The ho - ly peo - ple
4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; It’s hard to dance with the
5. They cut Me down and I leap up high; I am the life that will

stars and the sun, And I came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth; At
would not fol - low Me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; They
said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high, And
dev - il on your back. They buried My bod - y and they thought I'd gone: But
nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll live in Me:

Beth - le - hem I had My birth. Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the
camewith Me and the dance went on.
left Me there on a cross to die.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

Dance, said He, And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

SENDING
Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song Go tell it on the mountain, vv. 1, 3 VT 252

Resources used in worship:
Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality
Lord of the dance, © 1963 Gaillard, Ltd. Used by Permission. GIA, OneLicense 728744-A
God’s Dream, © 2008 Candlewick Press
Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader: Sandi Sanborn
Readers: Olive Loewer, Grace Ceres, Ellen Ceres, Josh Tice, Elleanna
Music: Elleanna Voran, Julian McMurry, Cash McMurry
         Elleanna Voran, Josh Tice, Noah Tice, Sheng Wheeler, Pastor Randy
A Moment for All Ages: Elleanna Voran, Grace Ceres, Iris Loewer, Julian McMurry, Ellen Ceres
Tech Support: Katharina Sawatzky, Alfred Sawatzky
Bulletin Cover Art Hannah Dudenhefer, Kelcie Dudenhefer, Erin Dudenhefer
Greeters: Paul Classen & Michelene Fast, Claire Kenline, Iris Loewer
Snacks: Cash McMurry, Claire Kenline, Hannah & Kelcie Dudenhefer, Iris Loewer, Gus Gouvas

December 12, 2021 Attendance: 60 Offering: $5,555

TODAY at BMC 9:30am Worship and mingling. No religious education classes.

THIS WEEK at BMC
12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Carols, 6:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY – December 26 – First Sunday in the Season of Christmastide
9:30a No Service or classes at BMC. Merry Christmas!

COMING UP
12/24 Christmas Eve Candles & Carols, 6:30p
12/26 *No Services at BMC*
1/11 Singing small group
1/13 Church Council
1/18 Christian Ed meeting
1/25 Singing small group

~PRAYERS~

~from Paul and Mary McKay: Prayers requested for granddaughter Eliana who will be having surgery for lip and cleft pallet repair this coming Tuesday.

~from Petra Lisa Voss: Prayers requested for Ellen Morrison who has two growths on her thyroid and A-Fib.

~from Carol Grasse: Thankful to God’s grace that Abe and all involved are alive and well after an accident on I-25.
~from the **Minters**: Prayers of hope and healing for the people and communities that have experienced tornados.

~from **Paul and Mary McKay**: Prayers for the sisters of Guadalupe in Cuernavaca, Mexico, on the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Feliz Día la Virgin de Guadalupe!

**~ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

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

**DEACONS:** Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527; Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Joan Tice: 717-512-6591

**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 ADMINISTRATOR:** Ivanna is in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday: 6:00am-2:30pm.

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

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<tr>
<th>DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 – Eve Kia</td>
<td>6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo &amp; Toni Diaz Bachus</td>
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<td>15 – Carol Grasse</td>
<td>31 – Jonathan &amp; Debrah Falk</td>
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**~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~**

**REMEMBER: BOULDER MASK MANDATE.** Just a friendly reminder that Boulder County continues to have a mask mandate. Masks are required in indoor settings. We can provide masks if you do not have one. Thanks for continuing to send us images of your vaccination cards. Keep them coming!

**HALLETT ACADEMY GIFT GIVING:** Pastor Randy and BMC administrator Ivanna delivered over 100 gifts to Hallett Elementary on Tuesday, December 14th. Both Principal Jefferson and Brittany Talvy, the social worker who helped coordinate this endeavor, expressed gratitude and thanks for BMC’s care and attention to the Hallett community.

**BMC CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Everyone is invited to our annual **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** at 6:30pm, which will include a carol service and a reading of the Christmas story. We will not be hosting a potluck this year. Cookies and cider will be served after the service. Invite your neighbors and friends!
**SNACKS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:** For the Christmas Eve service, you are invited to bring cookies and apple cider for a short reception after the service. Other finger food is also welcome. Since we usually have a number of guests for this, **Elvira Glenn** would like to know how many will be able to bring snacks or cider and if someone would be in charge of pouring cider. Send an email ([elviraglenn37@gmail.com](mailto:elviraglenn37@gmail.com)) or phone (303 666-6331) and leave a message. ~Elvira

### IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY

**REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN 2021 AND WERE UNHOUSED IN BOULDER.** December 21, 2021, 4pm at the Boulder Bandshell (1212 Canyon Blvd). All are welcome to participate. This tradition of a Homeless Memorial on the Winter Solstice is nationwide and dates back more than 30 years. We remember them with compassion and recommit ourselves to work to end homelessness for all. Hosted by a collaboration of service providers, faith communities and concerned citizens, co-sponsored by the City of Boulder Human Rights Commission.

**MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE:** in lieu of a prayer from the Conference, find this reflection of Advent:

*Human newborn babies are so vulnerable that the first three months of life are sometimes called the “fourth trimester of pregnancy.” And it’s true—a few more months of preparation in utero would make facing this harsh world slightly easier. For me, early parenthood’s sleepless nights were, in part, from worries that if my precious little ones smushed their faces on the crib’s mattress the wrong way, they could so easily suffocate, since their necks were barely strong enough to reposition their faces and airways.*

*God could have come to humanity as a fully-formed, able-bodied adult male—a symbol of power and invulnerability. But God didn’t. God came as a newborn baby, dependent on his Mama Mary for love and milk and turning him so the manger’s hay wouldn’t block his airways. And so we learn much from the type of God who comes in a vulnerable state. This is God’s love incarnate, and love is always inherently vulnerable.*

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA:**

**Coming In 2022:** We are planning webinars on each of the four resolutions, the role of delegates in MC USA, expectations for the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly, and more. We are confirming dates with the presenters and will publish them as soon as we can. Most webinars will be on Monday evenings at 5 p.m. All webinars will be recorded. Next confirmed webinar: "The Role of Resolutions in MC USA" | Jan. 24, 5 p.m.

**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**A Church Dismantled – A Kingdom Restored:** The four-book series is complete. The series is based upon 280 podcast episodes that Conrad Kanagy recorded during the Covid-19
pandemic and that attracted listeners in 80 countries and 1600 cities. The author’s writing has a special appeal to those disillusioned with the church as we have constructed it today, and who are yearning for a deeper spirituality with greater authenticity and vulnerability. For an inside look click here.

**ECOLOGY TIP:** Are you looking for a last-minute gift? How about a National Parks pass or annual pass to a nearby state park? This will encourage the recipient to venture out and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation more often! If it’s too late to get the actual pass to your loved one, write up a description of one of your favorite memories in that park to inspire them while they wait!

**The Risk of Birth**

*By Madeleine L’Engle*

*This is no time for a child to be born,*
*With the earth betrayed by war & hate*
*And a comet slashing the sky to warn*
*That time runs out & the sun burns late.*

*That was no time for a child to be born,*
*In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;*
*Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—*
*Yet here did the Savior make His home.*

*When is the time for love to be born?*
*The inn is full on the planet earth,*
*And by a comet the sky is torn—*
*Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.*

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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.