



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

A Service of the Word



The Magi, by artist He Qi, www.heqiart.com

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#

An audio recording of the service can be found at [Spreaker](#) after the service is completed

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 *Cold December Flies Away* Catalonian Carol
***Singing** Arise, your light has come! 273

***Call to Worship** adapted from Isaiah 60.1-6

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Eternal One is rising upon you!

People: **Though darkness covers the earth, and dense clouds enshroud the people, upon us the Eternal One now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among us!**

Leader: Nations and leaders will come to the Light's bright dawn! Lift your eyes and look around: they're all gathering and coming to you – your children journey from afar, escorted in safety.

People: **Our hearts swell with gladness, and we beam with joy. The richness of Love's justice flows – like gold and incense brought as gifts to the Holy One.**

All: *Let us sing and celebrate Life. Let us worship God!*

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing See whose glory fills the skies, vv. 1, 2, 4 VT 274

Centering Prayer

Singing As with gladness, vv. 1, 4 277

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 2 hrs prior to the worship service. Or [click here to donate online.](#)

Offertory *De Tierra Lejana Venimos* Puerto Rican Carol

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2.1-12

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of king Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, **“Where is the newborn ruler of the Jewish people? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.”** At this news King Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the religious leaders of the people, he asked them where the Anointed One was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written: **‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”**

The king called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too.”

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. **And the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They bowed down and offered reverence. Then they opened their treasures and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Singing

O beautiful star of Bethlehem, vv. 1, 3

275

Now Testament Reading

Jan Berry, *God-with-us*

God of gold, we seek your glory: the richness that transforms our drabness into color and brightens our dullness with vibrant light; your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.

God of incense, we offer you our prayer: our spoken and unspeakable longings, our questions of truth, our search for your mystery deep within.

God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering: the pain of all our rejections and bereavements, our baffled despair at undeserved suffering, our rage at continuing injustice; and we embrace you, God-with-us, in our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss.

Reflection

You can't see the star unless it's dark

RESPONDING

Singing

Joyful is the dark, vv. 1, 3, 5

281

Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Between darkness and light

808



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Jan Berry, in *Bread of Tomorrow*, ed. Janet Morley (SPCK/Christian Aid, 1992), found in Resources for Preaching and Worship, Year B

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader:	Becky Neumann
Moment for All	Karen Cox
Readers:	Lisa Voss, Joanna Harrison
Music:	Susan Graber, Jean McPherson. Randy Spaulding
Tech Support:	Bruce Wheeler, Noah Tice
Greeters:	Carole Suderman, Sheng Wheeler
Snacks:	Sheng Wheeler, Mai Wheeler, Gus Gouvas

January 5, 2024:

Attendance: 45 live, 7 online **Offering:** \$2,430.00

TODAY at BMC

9:30a	Worship and mingling
11:00a	Adult Education Hour, sanctuary; Youth Gathering, Rm 112
Noon	Visual Task Force meets in the sanctuary

THIS WEEK at BMC

1/14	Singing Group, 6:30, sanctuary
1/15	Meditation/Centering Prayer Group, 11a

NEXT SUNDAY – January 19, 2025: 2nd Sunday in the Season of Epiphany

Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

- 9:30am Worship and mingling
11:00am Education Hour, sanctuary (Joint adult/youth)

COMING UP

- 1/20 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/21 MSMC Youth Zoom Meeting
2/1 Everence Workshop, 1st Mennonite, Denver
2/13 Singing small group, 6:30p
2/15 MSMC Faith & Life Forum, 9:30pm, 1st Mennonite, Denver
1/24-26 [Jr. High Snow Camp](#) at RMMC
2/14-16 [Sr. High Snow Camp](#) at RMMC
7/8-12 MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC
8/1-3 Assembly weekend with Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Glennwood Spgs

~PRAYERS~

- ~for the **husband** of **Tammie Bernstein**, who is receiving treatment for his heart condition.
~of gratitude from **Toni Diaz**, who celebrated her **mother**, who celebrated in heaven her 95th birthday on 1/5.
~for safe travels for **Toni Diaz**' husband, **Felipe** and his cousin, **Yordis**. They are traveling to Florida. Also prayers for safe travels for Toni who travels to Havana on Thursday (1/9) to get one last trip in before the change in US leadership.
~for the life of **Jimmy Carter**, who strove to live out his Christian values in his political and personal endeavors.
~for the [Mennonite Men](#) organization – see announcement.

January Birthdays	
1 – Justin Mathis	15 – Gary Stephens
4 – Ellen Morrison	24 – Mary McKay
6 – Berit Jany	30 – Lyn Krause
9 – Elleanna Voran	

Please let us know if you would like your name added to our list. 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 ADMINISTRATOR: Thanks to Cheri Krause, Jen Dudenhefer, and Susan Graber who are helping to fill in while Ivanna is taking a break! No office hours currently. Please call the church office or email churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org for inquiries and to leave messages. Please keep Ivanna and her family in your prayers.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

SNACK PROVIDER NEEDED: Thanks to the lovely people who faithfully provide snacks for after worship. It is much appreciated! There is an opening for someone to provide snacks on the fifth Sunday (only 4 times this year). Let Elvira Glenn know if you would fill this spot.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Today we are continuing our adult series, *BMC and the Future of Church* in the sanctuary at 11:00. This winter we will be looking at Anabaptist leanings and the future of our denomination (Mennonite Church USA). Youth will gather in room 112 downstairs. All are welcome!

THE ANABAPTIST WORLD MAGAZINE COMMEMORATIVE EDITION for January 2025 has arrived. It features articles, stories, and a map to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. A copy is on the table with the new Anabaptist Community Bible. If you would like your own copy, please see Pastor Randy.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

Come hear about MSMC Youth Activities for 2025! Committee Members Jonathan Harnish, Annaken Toews and Katrina Toews invite parents and guardians of youth grades 6 – 12 to join our fun and informational [Zoom meeting](#) Thurs, 1/21, 7pm. We will highlight opportunities from RMMC Snow Camp to MennoCon 2025, to the Rocky Mountain MCC Sale, listen to feedback and answer questions. **We hope you can join us.**

EVERENCE WORKSHOP, Matters of Life and Death: What are you waiting for?: We tend to avoid conversations related to end-of-life planning, estate planning, and all that comes with it. Or wait far too long to start these conversations. End-of-life is an unknown for all of us, so adults of all ages are encouraged to attend a free, half-day workshop at First Mennonite Church of Denver, Saturday, 2/1, from 1:00 – 5:00pm. Topics will include spiritual, financial and health matters led by presenters from First Mennonite, Everence Financial and The Conversation Project. Please RSVP to churches@everence.com by Monday, January 27.

SAVE THE DATE: Faith & Life Forum - *Learning to Hope in the Dark* is **rescheduled to 2/15**, at 9:30-2:30 at First Mennonite in Denver. Shannon Dycus is our featured speaker. Sponsored by Mountain States Mennonite Conference. [LINK](#) to register.

HYMN FESTIVAL: The Hesston College Music Department invites you to join their **Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival** on Sun, 1/19, 2pm Mountain, in-person at Hesston Mennonite Church and livestreamed. View it online [here](#).

ANABAPTISM AT 500 WORSHIP: Join the worship service, [Anabaptism at 500 Anniversary Celebration](#) on Tues, 1/ 21, 5:00pm Mountain, in person at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, or virtually via livestream. Follow the Anabaptism at 500 [Facebook page](#) for more updates.

FROM MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE:

- The December Zing! newsletter has been published. Read the first in a series about what makes Mountain States Welcoming and Hospitable and the With Care column providing information on Conversations in a time of Polarization. Find this and more at this [link](#).
- Pastor Erica Lea Simka is resigning as Pastor of Albuquerque Mennonite Church. She has accepted a position with the New Mexico Conference of Churches.
- After nine years, Beloved Community Mennonite Church has decided to merge with Mountain Community Mennonite Church. The new structure means that the congregation will be called Mountain Community, and they will meet in two locations: in Palmer Lake at its long-standing place, and in Centennial at the Episcopal chapel on Dry Creek where Beloved Community has been meeting.
- When Dave Foncannon retired, Alive with Grace in Pueblo decided to close their doors. We are sad that this chapter is ending but so grateful for a congregation that followed Jesus and cared deeply for those under their care.

MENNONITE MEN ORGANIZATION: Invites your prayers, your financial support, and your engagement in the days, weeks, and months ahead, with hope to raise \$15,000 specifically for JoinMen by March. [More info here](#).

CASA DE PAZ: Casa de Paz, the non-profit that welcomes recently released newcomers, asylum seekers, and immigrants in the Denver area, welcomed 181 guests from 39 countries in 2024. You can find out more about their work and ways to help [here](#).

MCC COMFORTER BLITZ: March 3 – 5, in Haven, Kansas. Comforters will be tied for MCC to distribute. [More info](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Free webinar: On Tues, 1/14, 6:00P Mountain, MC USA is hosting a webinar, *Mindsight: Compassionate Pastoral Attention to Self and Others*, with Sarah Bixler. More information [here](#).

On 1/18 the Anabaptism at 500 Read-a-thon will be available to stream online and will conclude on 1/21 at the 500 Anniversary worship celebration as we read together the final passage from Revelations and celebrate the launch of the Anabaptist Community Bible. Tune in to the [MennoMedia](#) and [Anabaptism at 500](#) Facebook pages to watch the livestream!

MC USA Convention (MennoCon): Registration for Mennonite Church USA's **Follow Jesus '25** convention will open 1/6, for early-bird pricing. The denomination's biennial faith formation gathering will take place at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/registration-jan6
Register here: convention.mennoniteusa.org/

Join MC USA's Climate Justice Coordinator Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler in imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and our planet by participating in an online book study (beginning 1/16) of the compelling and timely book, "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. Drawing from scripture, science, Indigenous wisdom, and personal stories, the authors invite us to open our hearts and our culture to deep, Spirit-led transformation. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/climate-justice-book-study

MC USA remembers Jimmy Carter (1924-2024), former president, global peacemaker and worship speaker at the 2003 MC USA convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Listen to his 2003 message [here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: When the time comes to take out your Christmas tree, check your local information to find a place that will recycle and mulch your tree for free. Most cities in the Denver area have such programs. Many Christmas cards can be recycled or saved to be reused as postcards or gift tags. And if you have strings of lights that no longer work, they can be recycled at places such as Ecocycle's [Center for Hard to Recycle Materials](#) in Boulder. Remember, there is no "away" as in "throw away"!



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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