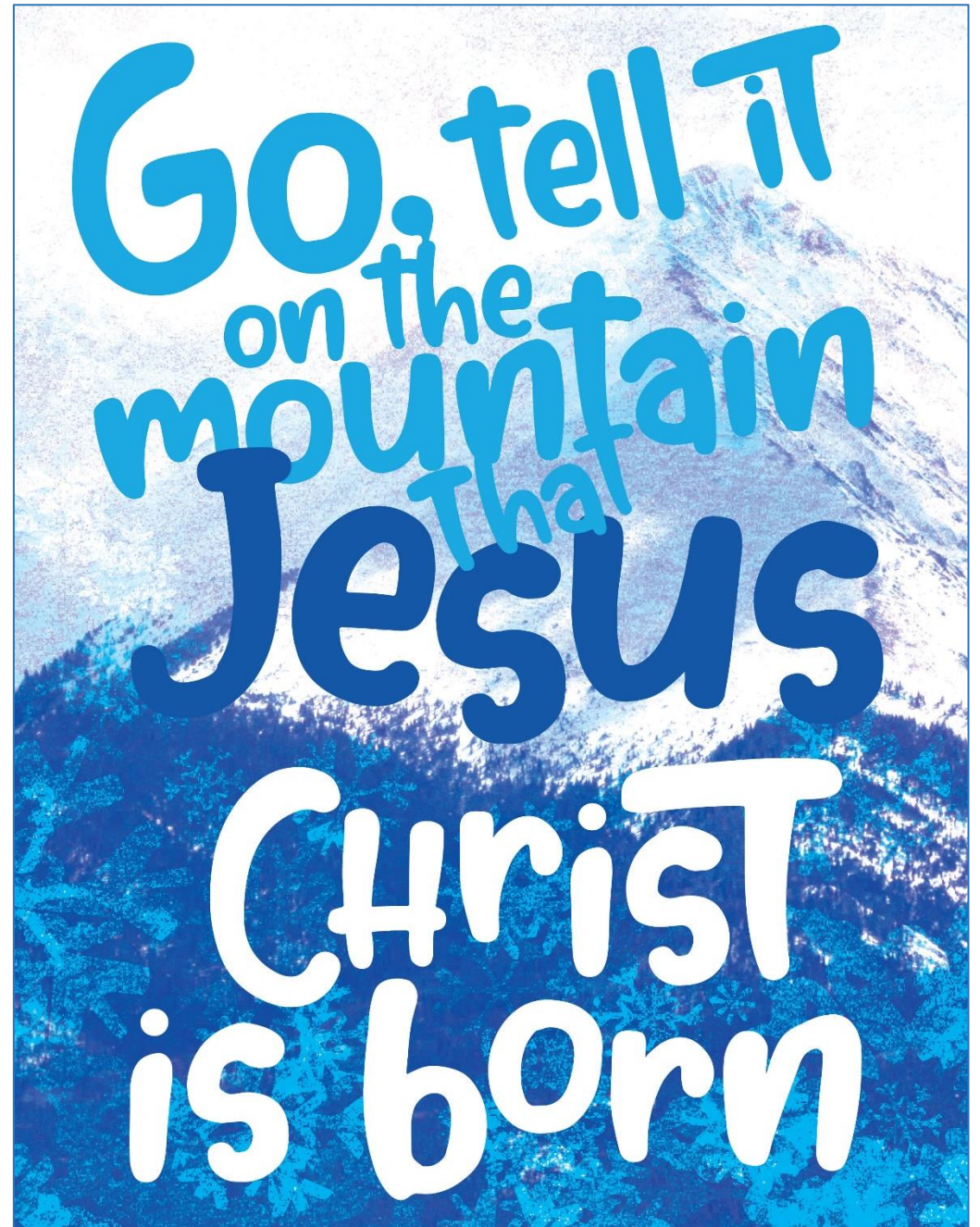




WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*



# Celebration of Worship

December 29, 2024



Christmas Sunday

## Centering chimes

## Prelude

## \*Call to worship

Leader: Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship  
(*pause*). Incarnate God, work in our hearts, that our worship would be filled  
with the joy that comes from remembering your beauty.

**ALL: In a little child, God is revealed to us.**

Leader: This is God's plan of freedom, held up for the nations to see.

**People: A revealing light to all peoples, the glory of God's kingdom people.**

Leader: We rejoice in our rescue and celebrate creation's redemption.

**People: The hills and the mountains praise the Lord.**

Leader: The animals, wild and tame, all kings and peoples of the earth, lightning and hail,  
snow and fog, women and men, old and young,

**ALL: all praise the Lord together. Our Messiah has come. Alleluia!**

**\*Gathering Hymn #241** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

## Welcome & prayer

## Lighting Advent and Christ candles

Leader: Have you heard the news? Jesus, the promised Messiah has come!

**People: We have heard the Good News! God is with us; Jesus is here!**

**ALL: Let us shout it aloud for everyone to hear! Come join us on this journey,  
as we live out the Good News of Christ!**

**Candle lighting hymn #249** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Children's story and offering for SIM Bangladesh Arsenic Prevention Program**

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

## Christmas music

**Reader's Theater** Luke 2:21-38

## Sermon

**\*Response Hymn #245** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

## Offering prayer

**Offertory** (*offerings can be placed in the offering plates as the greeters come by*)

**Congregational sharing and prayer** (use a mic or *text/email prayers to Pastor Deb*)

## Introduction of visitors

## Work of the church

**\*Sending Hymn #252** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

## \*Benediction

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*\*Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

*Note: The Christmas flower arrangement at the front of the sanctuary was a gift from our friends  
and neighbors at Central Illinois Mosque and Islami Center (CIMIC).*

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God's love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

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Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.