

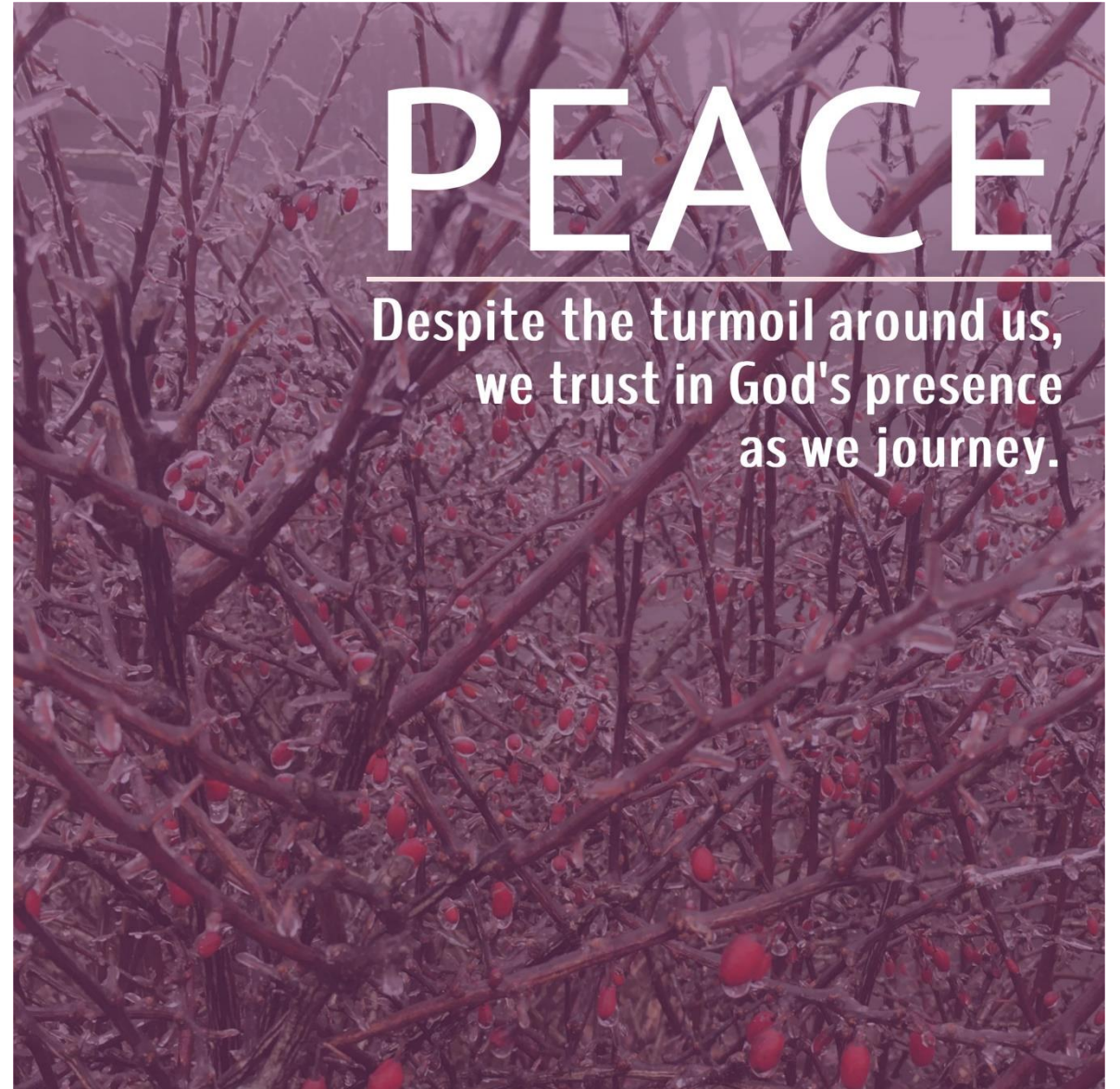


WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

PEACE

Despite the turmoil around us,
we trust in God's presence
as we journey.



Celebration of Worship

December 8, 2024



Advent 2: Journeying in Peace

Centering chimes

Prelude

***Call to worship**

Leader: Fill your lungs with air, and lift up your voice with strength.

People: Good news is coming! God's love is being revealed.

Leader: Get up on a high mountain so you can see the big picture. Step out into the open plain so you can see all around.

People: The Lord comes with great strength and yet gentle as a shepherd who gathers the lambs.

ALL: Oh, that you would reveal your peace to us, O Lord.

Leader: The paths of our world are not straight.

People: Still, we listen for the voice in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord."

Leader: Behold, God is coming.

People: God speaks peace into our noisy world.

Leader: Comfort, comfort, my people, says our God.

***Gathering Hymn #220** "Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called"

Welcome & prayer

Lighting Advent candles

Leader: We know God to be merciful and compassionate

People: Patient and full of faithful love

Leader: Ready to forgive

People: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

ALL: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God.

Candle lighting hymn #212 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

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

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

Scripture Luke 3:7-18

Embodied scripture Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon

***Response Hymn #229** "Unexpected and Mysterious"

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)

Advent music O Come Little Children by J. Schutz; arr. By C. Maggs

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church

***Sending Hymn #248** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

***Benediction**

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

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.

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.