



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

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

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Readers' Theater** John 1:1-14

**Hymn #270** "In the Beginning"

### 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 #274** "See Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

**\*Benediction**

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

### Special thanks to our readers:

Janet Guthrie, Mark Jaeger, Phil Martens, Martha Moore and Lynne Sancken

### Special thanks to our orchestra:

Rebecca Bare and Jada Watkins, violin

Danielle Beard and Mary Krick, flute

Geoff Herman, cello

Janet MacLean, piano

David Needham, trombone

Pete Shungu, trumpet

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.



# ARISE! SHINE!

## YOUR LIGHT HAS COME.

# Celebration of Worship

January 5, 2025



Centering chimes

Prelude

**\*Call to worship**

Leader: The glory of the Lord has risen; the Light of God has come.

**People: You are gathering your people, all peoples, those far away and those close at hand.**

Leader: The mystery, long hidden, has been revealed to all. Our hearts are jubilant!

**People: This mystery, until now, was revealed to the apostles and prophets.**

Leader: But now, in Jesus, all people are heirs to this mysterious promise.

**People: So grace is our rich inheritance, more precious than gold, frankincense, or myrrh.**

**ALL: Immanuel God, we are here this morning looking for you.**

Leader: Like the wise men from the East, we come to cradle the holy in our arms,  
to hear the newborn cry of the divine Creator, to see you decked out in flesh.

**People: We're here to consider the mysterious, to sense angels, and to catch a glimpse of the Star of all stars.**

Leader: We have need of such things, God—all that is brilliant and bright, all that merges mystery with the manger. But we have more need of your presence that is with us always.

**People: We praise you, O God, for revealing your saving mystery. Come each day, Immanuel God, to dwell among us; May your light shine through us to all people as we share your light and grace with gratitude. Amen.**

Special music *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Welcome & prayer

**\*Gathering Hymn #275** "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

The Christ-child Lay on Mary's Lap by G.K.Chesterton

The Magi by Malcolm Guite

Hymn #277 "As with Gladness"

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

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

**Creation Litany: The Darkness**

Hymn #179 "At the Dawn of Your Creation"

**LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE**

Scripture Isaiah 9:1a,2, 6-7

**LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE**

Scripture Luke 1:76-79

Hymn #219 "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

**LIGHTING THE THIRD (PINK) CANDLE**

Scripture Luke 1:26b-38

Annunciation by John Donne

Hymn #221 "The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed"

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE**

Scripture John 12:46; Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:12-16

Responsive Reading (from *God Wake Us Up* by Jan Berry)

Leader: God of new creation, when we are sleeping, exhausted by activity  
and the demands upon us.

**People: WAKE US WITH A BURST OF LIGHT TO LEAD US WITH JOY INTO YOUR DAY.**

Leader: God of the unexpected, when we are sleeping, dulled by apathy or indifferent  
to the needs around us.

**People: WAKE US WITH A BURST OF LIGHT TO LEAD US WITH JOY INTO YOUR DAY.**

Leader: God of judgement, when we are sleeping, hiding from the truth and shutting  
out the pain of reality.

**People: WAKE US WITH A BURST OF LIGHT TO LEAD US WITH JOY INTO YOUR DAY.**

Leader: God of all life, wake us up!

**People: Recreate us, surprise us, challenge us, that we may be ready to greet your light  
and walk with joy through the day.**

Hymn #273 "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

*(continued on back)*