



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
*of Champaign-Urbana*

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



**BE AMAZED!**

*Hope in the fiery furnace*

# Celebration of Worship

November 30, 2025



*Advent 1: Hope in the fiery furnace*

## Centering chimes

### Prelude

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

### \*Call to worship

Leader: God of our ancestors, you are our constant hope through all the ages.

**Congregation: We come eager for stories of you standing among us.**

**We come longing to feel your presence among your people once again.**

Leader: As the days darken around us, hope can feel a distant memory.

**Congregation: Even in the middle of trials, we keep our eyes on you.**

**Our allegiance is to you alone.**

Leader: Trust in God's steadfast love. Stand in amazement, ready to recognize God already among us here, in this place.

**ALL: Our hope is in you, O God. Fill our hearts with the courage of our ancestors.**

**Ready us to enter their story and be amazed.**

### \*Gathering Hymn #57

"Holy Spirit, Come with Power"

### Welcome & prayer

### \*Praising Hymn #237

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

### Lighting Advent candles

Leader: We see the darkness and fear in our world, sometimes engulfing us like a burning furnace. We long for your hope to find us and ease our fears.

**Congregation: Come Hope of the world. Come amaze us.**

**ALL: May your presence comfort us and light the way.**

**Candle lighting hymn (insert) "Come Hope of the World" (verse 1)**

## Children's story and offering for the Mennonite Central Committee's crisis response in Gaza

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

### Scripture

Daniel 3:1-30; Habakkuk 1:1-5, 12-13; Habakkuk 3:16-19

### Sermon

### \*Response Hymn #229

"Unexpected and Mysterious"

### Communion

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. The bread is gluten-free. The juice is grape juice (water is also available). Come and partake as the Spirit leads. Note: We will not pass the offering plates this morning. Offerings can be placed in the plate when you come forward for communion or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary after the service. Prayer cards can also be brought forward.*

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

### Introduction of visitors

### Work of the church

### \*Sending Hymn #248

"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"

### \*Benediction

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

*Note: Because worship is participatory and not a performance, instead of applauding please show appreciation for preludes, offertories and special music in other ways, such as ASL, silent applause, saying "Amen" or thanking musicians later.*

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.