



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.



Celebration *of* Worship

December 28, 2025



Christmas Sunday: God Among Us

Centering chimes

Prelude

***Call to worship**

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

Congregation: from his roots a branch will bear fruit,

Leader: on whom will rest the spirit of the Lord,

Congregation: the spirit of wisdom and of understanding

Leader: the spirit of counsel and of might

Congregation: the spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Leader: This one will not judge by what the eyes see

Congregation: Or decide by what the ears hear,

Leader: But with righteousness will judge the needy,

Congregation: and with justice will decide for the poor of the earth.

Leader: On those living in the land of deep shadows a light has shone.

Congregation: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

Leader: and dominion will be upon his shoulders; and he will be called

ALL: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

***Gathering Hymn #259** “To Us a Child of Hope Is Born”

Welcome & prayer

Praising Hymn #247 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Lighting Advent candles

One: Your light of hope, peace, joy, and love has arrived. You shine on us. You shine in us.

Many: Welcome, Light of the world. We are amazed!

ALL: May your light shine through the dark, illuminating your path, illuminating our souls.

Candle lighting hymn (insert) “Come Hope of the World” (*verses 1-5*)

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 Matthew 1:1-25

Special Music

Sermon

***Response Hymn #770** “God Is Working This Purpose Out” (*verses 1, 2, 4*)

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

Prayer & Offertory

Ushers will pass offering plates down the rows.

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church

***Sending Hymn #252** “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

***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.