

WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
*of Champaign-Urbana*

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



# Celebration *of* Worship

January 4, 2026



Centering chimes

Prelude

**\*Call to worship**

One: The invitation has been spoken: "Come and see." The door to a stable stands open.  
The way is before us.

**Many: We heard the call. Now we step forward in wonder; ready to follow, open to the unexpected.**

One: "You will see greater things than these," Jesus says.

**Many: We stand in amazement, waiting to be changed.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who calls us by name, who sees us as we are and leads us into new life.

**ALL: We come, ready to follow, ready to see, ready to be amazed!**

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

Welcome & prayer

**Praising Hymns #267/268** "What Child Is This/Helpless and Hungry"

Lighting the candles

One: We celebrate as we reflect in amazement at what you have done. You muted the flames of our fears with hope.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

One: You resurrected the dry bones of our spirits with peace.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

One: You quenched our thirsty souls with living water of joy.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

One: You came to be among us, to show us the way in love.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

One: You have called us to follow you and walk the path of mercy and grace.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**ALL: Lead us forward so that we too may carry your Christ-light into the world!**

**Candle lighting hymn #211** "Hope is a Candle"

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

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

**Embodied Scripture** Matthew 2:1-15

**Scripture** Matthew 2:16-23

**Sermon**

**\*Response Hymn #274** "See Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

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

**Prayer & Offertory**

Ushers will pass offering plates down the rows.

**Introduction of visitors**

**Work of the church**

**\*Sending Hymn #276** "Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets"

**\*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.