

**Together on the Journey**

**Advent 4**

**Embodying God's Spirit**

# Waterford Mennonite Church

December 22, 2024

Prelude		John Zehr
Gathering songs		Nick Stoltzfus
	<i>O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem</i>	VT 275
	<i>The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed</i>	VT 221
	<i>Gathered Here</i>	VT 3
Welcome & Call to Worship		Loanne Harms, Lydia Voth
Lighting the Advent Candles		
Offering	<i>Please pass the friendship pads</i>	
	(Gifts are for Operating Fund unless designated otherwise)	
Children's time		Zoë Brown
	<i>God, Give Me Faith like a Child</i>	VT 519
Song	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	VT 261
Scripture	Luke 1:26-49	
Sermon	"Mary's Imagination"	Deron Bergstresser
Song of Response	<i>How Many Times We Start Again</i>	VT 553
Congregational prayer & Lighting the Peace Lamp*		Cindy Voth
Benediction		
Sending song	<i>We Have Been Sent by God</i>	VT 771

*Thank you to Zoë Brown and Layna Stoltzfus for creating the worship visuals for Advent.*

VT = Voices Together; SJ = *Sing the Journey*; SS = *Sing the Story*

\*We light the peace lamp every Sunday to lament all unnecessary and violent loss of life around the world.

## Prayers

*Bob and Rachel Brenneman*, who will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 24.

*Elmer and Deloris Wyse*, who will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 26.

As we enter the week of Christmas and remember Jesus' birth, millennia ago, in a land crushed by oppression, join Mennonite Mission Network in looking for the surprising ways that the Prince of Peace is being born in our own fractured communities today. Let us continue to pray and act in ways that build peace.

Congratulations to *Denys and Yana Kondratiuk* on the birth of their daughter, *Luciya* at the end of November. Pray for them as they adjust to being new parents in a new culture.

Pray for *Elizabeth Stauffer* as her husband *Don*, who lives at Greencroft Healthcare, is entering into hospice care.

*Benton Mennonite Church* and *Derrick Ramer* as they walk together in a new season of life following a recent pastoral transition.

We remember this week our Venture Club Sponsors *Jeff Claassen*, *Jill Repogle*, *Derrick Method* and *Tami Schlabach*.

*Janette and Doug Yoder* following the death of Janette's sister, Geneva Wyse, who died Monday in Archbold, Ohio.

## Welcome Guests

We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Children of all ages are welcome in worship. There are sermon boards for children outside the sanctuary doors; please pick one up as you enter. If desired, there is a nursery available in the west end of the foyer for infants and toddlers. Large print copies of the hymnal and hearing aid systems are available from the ushers. We invite you to stay for our nurture hour. Look for the welcome brochure on the front table in the foyer.

## **Our Mission Statement**

As the people of Waterford Mennonite Church, we

***Welcome** everyone to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ,*

***Minister** to the needs of one another and our neighbors through the Holy Spirit, and*

***Call out** each other's gifts for the joyful work of God's reconciling mission.*

We celebrate that everyone is created in God's image, and as followers of Jesus we welcome people of every age, ability, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic situation, gender identity, and citizenship status as full participants in the life of our congregation.

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