

Dare to imagine God's dance!

Summit Mennonite Church

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January 2, 2022

Patrick & Christine Nafziger, Pastors

Worship 10 a.m.

Mona Rohrer & William Troyer, Caring Team

Welcome to all visitors! May you feel at ease with us and sense the presence of God.

We follow Christ, offering healing and hope as we serve our neighbors in need.

Prelude Dora Short

Welcome and Lighting of the Advent Candles LaVerne Yousey

Candle Litany

Leader: We light the Christ candle to honor Jesus and listen as all creation joins in praise.

People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Call to Worship LaVerne Yousey

Leader: Come and join in a holy dance—a dance God has been imagining since the beginning.

People: We come, weeping.

Leader: Join in God's comforting dance.

People: We come with nothing.

Leader: Join in God's dance of abundance.

People: We come, feeling disconnected.

Leader: Join in God's intimate dance.

People: We come, although we do not know how to dance.

Leader: Will we dare to learn the moves? Do we dare step onto the dance floor?

People: We will join in God's daring dance.

Opening Song: As with Gladness VT # 277

Song: Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets VT# 276

Prayer

God of the vast heavens, expansive oceans, majestic mountains, and rolling prairies,
forgive us for our need to conquer and control.

Cause us to look up, reach out, and follow . . .

For you, O God of infinite imagination, will lead us.

Assurance

From all the fullness of God,
the world has received grace upon grace.

The young rejoice in the dance.

The old shall be merry.

Surely, the true Light has come into the world. Amen.

Scripture: John 1: 1-18

Sermon: "Of Grunts and Groans" Patrick Nafziger

Song of Response: What Child Is This VT#267 (HWB #215)

Sharing Joys and Concerns LaVerne Yousey

Congregational Prayer

Call to Intercession

We pray to you, Lord;
our prayer rises with the sun.

At dawn we plead our case and watch for you.

God of our salvation, all our longing is known to you,
our sighing is not hidden from you.

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You remind us not to be afraid. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You gather the outcast and change their shame into praise.

We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You renew your people in your love. We pray for the church in all places,
that we may daily follow in the footsteps of Christ.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You break the rod of the oppressor. We pray for the world,
for those in positions of power and authority.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of breaking dawn, you dance the earth into day.

Grant us that awareness of forgiveness

with which Zechariah ended his silence,

that we too might rejoice to proclaim the good news of your salvation.

We pray in the name of the Messiah who came to set us free:

Our Father... (using sins/those who sin against us)

Offering

Announcement/Welcome of Visitors & Virtual Attendees

Closing Song: O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT # 275 (STS #32)

Benediction

Move your feet to the rhythm of the seasons,

let your praises be seen in your movement.

Use your imagination,

join in God's daring dance,

the dance that began with the light.

Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets

Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets strain to grasp the sound.
In the quiet breathes an anthem over dark and thorny ground.
Rocks and plains repeat the echo; splendor floods the starlit morn.
We are wonders, blessed wonders, singing joy to the world.

We are shepherds in the fields, watching in the night.
We are mortals, we are bearers, searching for a perfect light.
Hurry, hurry! Sing the glory! Bring the gold and bitter myrrh
of our carols: Hallelujah! Singing Joy to the world.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Joy to the world!
We are wonders, blessed wonders, singing joy to the world.

Crushing fears are met with joy' sorrow's curse is torn.
Hear the music, fling your load down, and unbend your tired form.
These bright hours circle round us, let the gentle wings unfurl.
Swift and sweetly down the roadside, singing joy to the world.

(Repeat Refrain).

LAST WEEK:

Attendance: 23 General Offering: \$1,120
\$1,989 needed weekly to meet spending plan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Summit community,
Thank you so much for your very generous Christmas gift to us! You are a blessing, and we pray that God will abundantly bless each of you throughout this new year. Patrick & Christine

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK PRAYER REQUEST: Mennonite Mission Network thanks your congregation for its generous support of God's work. Continue to hold our personnel and partners in your prayers, as we join to share the light and love of Jesus in our neighborhoods and around the world.