

## **Advent - Epiphany 2022**

### ***Restoration is near***

November 27-January 8

During Advent, we are invited into the mystery of the incarnation, God putting on flesh and dwelling among us. We watch and wait and pay attention to the ways that Christ is showing up, and we tell the story of the “new” thing God did 2,000 years ago. Advent invites us to practice living in that tension of the here and the not yet. This year’s theme, developed by Leader magazine, reminds us that God’s restorative work is ongoing. Restoration is near! Jesus has come and brought about restoration! And...we live in a world deeply in need of restoration.

Restoration has seasons of intense work and of maintenance mode. It’s active. It requires something of us. It’s transformative. And it is inspired and guided by God’s creative and persistent love. During Children’s time each week, we’ll hear the story of St Francis and the wolf of Gubbio, reminding us that restoration is not only about relationships between people and God, but restoration with all of God’s creatures and creation.

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, Advent begins in a season of ever growing dusk, creeping toward the shortest and darkest day of the year. We are invited to linger in the darkness, paying attention to the God who dwells with us in the shadows and also encircles us in the light. Each Sunday we will begin the service with the lights lowered and watch as our children bring in the light.

There are many ways to enter into this season:

**Advent countdown candles and calendars can be picked up on the table outside the worship space.**

**Holden Evening Prayer (joint Assembly & Faith): Each Sunday of Advent, 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for this simple 20 minute vespers service of spoken and sung prayers from Holden Village.

**Messiah Sing along and Potluck: December 4**

8 a.m. Orchestra rehearsal (all musicians welcome!)

Join us for Second Hour for this annual tradition, bring your own Messiah score if you have it.

**Candle Dipping: Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.**

Garage at Steve Shantz’s home (60728 CR 27, Goshen)

This Assembly tradition is intended for children ages K-5.

**Christmas Cookie Exchange: Sunday, December 11, afternoon**

Deliver cookies to three households and receive cookie plates from three households (Sign up link is in the Assemblyline)

**Advent Spiral: Saturday December 17, at 5:30 and 7 p.m.**

Multipurpose space

The Advent spiral, a contemplative, candlelight labyrinth walk is an Assembly tradition. Children ages 3 and up are invited to participate. Older children (especially Junior high age) are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m.. Please sign up to attend by emailing [Loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:Loracn@assemblymennonite.org).

**Longest Night Service: Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m.**

In the midst of this season of expectation and joy, we pause on the Longest Night of the year to also acknowledge our sorrows and longings. This service is geared for quiet reflection and will include singing, scripture, words of lament and assurance, and candles.



**Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 6 p.m.**

Multipurpose space and worship space

5:15 p.m.: Candle Dance rehearsal

6 p.m.: Join us for a simple soup and bread supper, followed by a play and candle dance

Sign up online (link is in the aine) to indicate interest in attending/ participating

**Christmas (Day) Evening Service, December 25, 5 p.m**

Joint worship service with Faith Mennonite: no sermon, just your favorite Christmas hymns!

Bring cookies to share afterward

**New Years Day Breakfast Potluck, January 1, 9:30 a.m.**

Followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.

**Women's Christmas, January 14, 4-7 p.m.**

Date	Scripture	Theme	Preacher	2nd hour	Specials
11/27	Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Watch: The day is almost here	Regina Shands Stoltzfus	Advent stations in MP	
12/4	Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord	Karl Shelly	Handel's Messiah sing along	Fellowship Meal
12/11	Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11	Tell what you hear and see	Brian Roots	Hymn singing in WS	
12/18	Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25	Do not be afraid	Anna Yoder Schlabach	Congregational meeting Advent Spiral in MP	
12/25	Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)	Sing for joy: Your God reigns	No Preacher	No second hour	5 p.m. Evening worship with Faith
1/1	Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23	He comes to us in all our distress	Jonathon Schramm	No second hour	9:30 Potluck Breakfast 10:30 Worship
1/8	Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	The manifold wisdom of God be made known	Stephen Lowe	TBD	