

Assembly Mennonite Church
Advent 2023
Promises in the Dark
December 17, 2023

Gathering

Light Processional - VT 228 [Wait for the Lord](#)
Welcome, Call to Worship, Birthday Recognition
VT 808 [Between Darkness and Light](#)

Offering ourselves and our money

Gratitude and Goodbye for Lora Nafziger
Offering - VT 211 [Hope Is a Candle](#)

Telling God's Story

Children's time
Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
L: The stories of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Sharing our Stories

VT 225 [We Come](#)
Sermon response/Sharing from our lives
Sending the Siemens Nafziger Rhodes family
AS 184 [May the blessing of God](#) (on reverse)

Sending

Introduction of Visitors
Announcements *If you have an announcement that pertains to the whole congregation, please get it in writing to the worship leader.*
Benediction - *Hope Lingers On*

Thanks to: Worship Leader: Anna Yoder Schlabach; Song Leader: Conrad Liechty; Musicians: Becky Snider, Ana Yoder Coulter, Wilma Harder; Light Bearers: Emma Coulter, Reuben Graber Roth, J Kern, Mabel Miller Avelar, Levi Miller, Auggie Nafziger-Rhodes, Bryn Rothshank; Scripture Readers: Leah Hochstetler, Tilly Schramm; Singers: Magdalena Horst, Cora Shreiner Landes; Children's time: Leon Bauman; Sermon: Karl Shelly; Pastoral sharing and prayer: Scott Coulter; Tech Crew: Ben Good-Elliott & Marshall King; Visuals: Quilted banners by Lois Kaufmann, arrangement by Kay Bontrager-Singer

May the blessing of God

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BLESSING SONG

The image shows a musical score for the song 'May the blessing of God'. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'May the blessing of God go before you. May her grace and peace abound. May her Spirit live with in you. May her love wrap you round. May her blessing remain with you always. May you walk on holy ground.' The chords are indicated above the notes: C#m(Bm), A(G), C#m(Bm), F#m(Em), C#m(Bm), A(G), B(A), E(D), A(G), C#m(Bm), F#m(Em), G#m(F#m), C#m(Bm).

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Second Hour: Please join us for a Christmas and Advent Hymn Sing. Write down your favorites and your name on the small pieces of paper before second hour begins.

Coming up in Advent:

Holden Evening Prayer (joint Assembly & Faith): Tonight at 7:30pm. Join us for this simple 20-minute vespers service of spoken and sung prayers from Holden Village.

Longest Night Service: Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 6 p.m. Sign up in the gathering space.