Assembly Mennonite Church

December 22, 2019

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

***A Way where there is no Way***

**Gathering and summoning**

Welcome and introduction to the morning

Music of preparation  *What child is this*

Opening Prayer

Processional and lighting the Advent wreath

*Come, Light of the world STS 3*

Call to worship adapted from Isaiah 7

L: We have been looking for a sign.

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: We have been waiting for a savior.

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: The time is near—can it be?

**P: Emmanuel—God with us.**

L: Come let us worship the God of sign,

wonder, and promise.

**Hymns of hope and praise**

H 172  *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

H 182  *Oh, how shall I receive thee*

**Confessing and receiving grace**

L: Sometimes in the silence we regret the choices we have made.

 Sometimes in the gray we doubt that light could ever really come again.

 Sometimes in the busyness we tumble into restless sleep with no place for dreams of new paths.

Come to us this morning with your searing grace.

 **P:** **Have mercy on us.**

**Make a way where there is no way.**

**Nudge us, move us, set our feet to walking.**

 L: Words of assurance from Psalm 107

SS 115  *Beauty for brokenness*

**Offering ourselves and our money**

SS 16 *Peace before us*

Prayer of dedication

**Hearing God’s word**

 Children’s time

 Reader: A reading from God’s written word

 **People: Our ears are open.**

Matthew 1: 18-25

 Sermon

Music of response *Pastorale* from the Corelli Christmas Concerto

**Sharing our common life and praying together**

**Blessing and sending**

SS 15   *Hope is a candle*

Benediction

*Announcements and Fellowship Break*

**Second Hour:** Carol Singing in the worship space or setting up for Christmas Eve; contemplative coloring continues on the tables in the Multipurpose space North.

**Leading us in worship today**

Musicians: Bev Lapp, Glenn Gilbert, Aaron Kaufmann, Isaac and Jesse Bontrager, Johanna Mateer McKee, Patricia Nuyken, Marna and Bill Mateer;  Visual: Joni Yost

Scripture reader: Ted Koontz; Children’s time: Karen Graber Roth; Sermon: Scott Coulter; Pastoral Prayer: Lora Nafziger; Worship leader: Mary Lehman Yoder