Assembly Mennonite Church

December 8, 2019

**Second Sunday of Advent**

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

 ***Preparing the Way***

**Gathering and summoning**

Welcome and Introduction

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 Romans 15:4-11

Leader: God calls us to live with endurance.

**People: We glorify the God of hope.**

Leader: The God of encouragement calls us to unity.

**People: We are grateful for the bounty of God’s mercy.**

Leader: God calls us to a new vision for all of creation.

***All: Let us all give praise.***

**Hymns of hope and praise**

*STS 14 Prepare the way of the Lord*

*HWB 176 Comfort, comfort, O my people*

**Confessing and receiving grace**

Leader: Sometimes in the silence we sense our own brokenness. Sometimes in the gray we

grow apathetic. Sometimes in the busyness we numb ourselves. Come to us this

morning with your searing grace.

**People:** **Have mercy on us. Make a way where there is no way.**

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

Leader: Words of assurance from Psalm 107

**Offering ourselves and our money**

*STJ 54 Longing for light*

Prayer of dedication

**Hearing God’s word**

 Children’s time

 Reader: Readings from God’s written word

 **People: Our ears are open.**

Matthew 3:1-12, Isaiah 11:1-10

 Song *HWB 183 On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry*

Sermon

 Music of response *He shall feed his flock- Alto Aria*

 *Come unto Him- Soprano Aria*

**Sharing our common life and praying together**

**Blessing and sending**

*STJ 76 The Lord bless you and keep you*

Benediction

*Announcements and Fellowship Break*

**Leading us in worship today**

Musicians: Beverly Lapp, Rebecca Dengler Kaufman, Sarah Sutter Kaufman, Meiling Yordy, Christina Herrmann; Visual: Joni Yost; Children’s time: Karen Graber Roth; Scripture readers: Regina Shands Stoltzfus; Sermon: Anna Yoder Schlabach; Pastoral Prayer: Karl Shelly; Worship leader: Lora Nafziger

**Second Hour:** Messiah Singing in Worship space

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| **Messiah selections – 2019** |
| **First hour** selections: |
| #20 | Alto aria – Rebecca KaufmanSoprano aria - Sarah Sutter | "He shall feed his flock”“Come unto Him” |
| **Second hour** selections: |
| #1 | Overture |   |
| #2#3 | Tenor recitative – Jeff MartinTenor aria – Jeff Martin | “Comfort ye”“Every valley” |
| #4 | Chorus | “And the glory” |
| #5 | Bass recitative – Scott Hochstetler | “Thus saith the Lord” |
| #6 | Counter tenor aria – Jeremiah Chico | “But who may abide” |
| #8#9 | Alto recitative – Rebecca KaufmanAlto aria and chorus – Rebecca Kaufman | “Behold, a virgin shall conceive”“O thou that tellest” |
| #12 | Chorus | “For unto us” |
| #13 | Pifa (Pastoral Symphony) |  |
| #14-16 | Soprano recitatives – Jamie Lake | “There were shepherds,” etc. |
| #17 | Chorus | “Glory to God” |
| #27 | Chorus | “All we like sheep” |
| #44 | Chorus | “Hallelujah” |
| #47#48 | Bass recitative – Aaron KaufmanBass aria – Aaron Kaufman | “Behold, I tell you a mystery”“The trumpet shall sound” (1st part only) |
| #53 | Chorus | “Worthy is the Lamb” |