



# Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667

[www.orrvillemenno.net](http://www.orrvillemenno.net)

## Worship Order for December 31, 2023

**Welcome**

**Singing**

### **Responsive Reading**

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Women: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

Men: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

One: Our long wait is finally over!

(pause)

All: Together we rejoice.

Leader: We’ve seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him!

Go! Rejoice! God is here!

All: Together we rejoice!

**Singing**

**Scripture** Galatians 4:4–7

4 But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. 5 This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be →

adopted. 6 Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.

**Meditation**    *Into our lives and into our hearts*

## **Reflections on What We Have Learned in 2023**

### **Prayer**

**Scripture**        Psalm 148.1-7a, 12b-14

1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from heaven!

    Praise God on the heights!

2 Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

    Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

3 Sun and moon, praise God!

    All of you bright stars, praise God!

4 You highest heaven, praise God!

    Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

5 Let all of these praise the Lord’s name

    because God gave the command and they were created!

6 God set them in place always and forever.

    God made a law that will not be broken.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

12 ... you young men—young women too!—

    you who are old together with you who are young!

13 Let all of these praise the Lord’s name

    because only God’s name is high over all.

    Only God’s majesty is over earth and heaven.

14 God raised the strength[a] of his people,

    the praise of all his faithful ones—

        that’s the Israelites,

        the people who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

## **Hopes for 2024**

### **Prayer**

**Love Step Prayer** (standing if able)

Lord, open my eyes to see when you introduce me to someone. Help me to meet them with love where they are and to be met in love where I am. Help us to walk together, learn from each other, and share your love with others. Help us to see that as we do these things together, we are growing closer to Christ.

**Song****Benediction****Sharing (prayer requests) and Caring Announcements**

Usher, Sherm Amstutz

Sunday Morning Trustee (December), Ken Wenger

Song Leader, Bill Seymour

Reader, Sandy Miller

Sharing and Prayer, Jeanne and Dan Jantzi

Greeter Today, Allison Seymour

Worship Nursery, Jan & Rollie Kauffman

## **Announcements**

**Prayer Time.** Church Growth – The elders invite you to a time of prayer, specifically for our church to grow.

Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20-21. As we come together, in faith, we will discover how nothing is impossible for our Lord. Prayer times will be 8:45 am on **designated Sundays**. We will meet in the room under the balcony... If you are unable to attend in person, perhaps you can commit to spending time in prayer asking our Lord to open our doors for others to walk through so that they will know the love of our Lord and experience our Love Step Prayer in action. The next prayer time will be **January 14, 2024**.

**An invitation!** Please consider parking on the side of the church and entering through the front door of the church if you are willing and able. It's another way to make the front of our building more open and inviting to our community.

**Coffee time!** Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be available upstairs in the church beginning at 9:00 am. Please consider coming earlier than 9:30 so you have some time to sit and enjoy a cup before the service begins at 9:30. There will be a place for coats in the overflow in addition to the row of hooks near the elevator and the coat rack near the library.

**January's Dollar Project** will be directed to the Wooster Severe Weather Shelter. The shelter is headed by the 501c3 organization called Homeward Bound. The shelter is located in the gym of the Wooster Salvation Army Family Life Center and is open to community members from December 1 through March 31 when wind chill temperatures drop to 32 degrees or lower. The doors open at 6pm and overnight guests can stay until 8 am the following morning. They are provided with a cot and a meal. The meals are donated by local churches and volunteers assist from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. There are paid overnight staff. Pete and Lou

Erb have volunteered for the past 2 years at the shelter. Donations are needed for the shelter rent as well as for necessary items like gloves, hats, hygiene kits, and socks. Since we will not be meeting in the church building until Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> please consider sending your donation into church.

**Offering Envelopes available by mailboxes.** Please sign your name on the yellow card and put it in the box.

**The final Fifth Sunday Mission Offering opportunity for 2023 is December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Thank you for your generous giving to Missions in many ways over the last year!

**OMC Church Directory Update.** There is still a little fine tuning to be done, but we will get the updated directory to you soon!

**January 2024 Worship and Fellowship Series.** Beginning January 7, with a combined worship service at Oak Grove Mennonite, we will be in a series call, *The Jesus Way*, looking at Anabaptist Faith and Practice. Herald Press has a series of 10 books, focused around questions of faith and practice, called *The Jesus Way, Little Books of Radical Faith*. An order sheet for the books is on the back table in the Sanctuary.

## **Schedule At-A-Glance for Dec 31, 2023 – Jan 7, 2024**

Sunday, December 31 **New Year's Eve**

Brunch at OMC, **9:15 am**

Worship Time in Sanctuary, **10:45 am**

No Sunday School

Wednesday, January 3

Axis Youth Group, 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 4

Women's Fellowship and Service, 9:30 am

Sunday, January 7

No Sunday School at OMC. You are welcome to attend Oak Grove SS classes at **9:30 am**

Combined Worship Service at Oak Grove MC, **10:30 am**

**Carry In Lunch following.** *Oak Grove says to not feel pressure to bring food, but if anyone wants to we are welcome to.*

### **Offering Report for Sunday, December 24, 2023**

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,408.00

Ministry Spending Plan: \$4,224.00

Monday Meals: \$1,000.00

Mennonite Central Committee: \$1,000.00

College Matching: \$400.00

### **Looking Ahead**

**January 7**

Combined Worship Service at Oak Grove, 10 am. Carry-in Lunch following.

**January 10**

First of 5 monthly Wednesday suppers and Bible Studies with our Six Church Group. This first one is at Orrville Mennonite. They will be on the second Wednesdays of each month through May.

**January 14**

Our normal Worship, Sunday School, and Carry-In meal.

**January 21**

Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday, Shawn Hilliard, special speaker

**Orrville Mennonite Church**

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Orrville Mennonite Church Website

[www.orrvillemenno.net](http://www.orrvillemenno.net)

Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

[www.ohiomennoniteconference.org](http://www.ohiomennoniteconference.org)

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**Ministers:** Each member of the congregation

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