



Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667

www.orrvillemenno.net

Worship Order for December 17, 2023 Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Candle-Lighting

Responsive Reading 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Leader: Rejoice always.

Piano Side: Pray continually.

Offering Side: Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

All: Don't suppress the Spirit.

Leader: Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good.

All: Avoid every kind of evil.

Leader: Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming.

The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

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| Gathering Songs | <i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i> | WB 177 |
| | <i>Hark! The Glad Sound!</i> | WB 184 |

Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Piano Side: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,

Offering Side: and holy is God's name.

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.→

One: Wait. The Lord has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly? When? How does that work?

(pause)

All: Together we wait.

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| Singing | <i>The Angel Gabriel</i> | WB 180 |
| | <i>Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> | WB 172 |
| | vv. 1, 3, 5, 6 | |

Offering Prayer

All are invited to come forward with gifts and offerings as we sing.
Regular Offerings
My Coins Count (water projects around the world)

| | | |
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| Offering Song | <i>My Soul Proclaims with Wonder</i> | WB 181 |
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Scripture Luke 1.46-55

46 Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

47 In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

48 [The Lord] has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored.

49 because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

50 [The Lord] shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

51 [The Lord] has shown strength with his arm.

[The Lord] has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

52 [The Lord] has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

53 [The Lord] has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

54 [The Lord] has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,

55 just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Sermon Notes

Announcements

Prayer Time for 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 time 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.

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.

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, we have morning **worship** at our normal time, **9:30 am**. Jane and Marion Beyeler will share about service trip to San Antonio. There will be no Sunday school on Christmas Eve. In the evening, we'll have **Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6:00 pm**. This will include, weather permitting, going outside and singing carols. After the evening service, everyone is invited to a Christmas open house at the Seymour's. Bring some cookies or something to share, if you'd like, but come even if you can't or don't want to bring anything. If mobility is an issue, drive around and park in our driveway. We'll help you get inside.

New Year's Eve. On Sunday, December 31, Bill will cook breakfast for everyone. Come to the church building at about 9:15 am for breakfast. Then, we'll drive to Orrvilla Maple Terrace and have our worship service there, in the lower level. We'll leave the church building about 10:20 am, and worship will begin at 10:45am. We are moving to Maple Terrace this day in order to include Ruth Conrad and Lois Leidig. Other residents will also join us.

Sunday School. Because of our Christmas time activities, there will be no Sunday school after today, Dec. 17, until January 14.

K Ladies Lunch is Thursday, December 21st, 12 noon at Marilyn Kamp's. Lunch will be provided by Marilyn. Please bring a gift for the White Elephant gift exchange.

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*. You can also follow this link to more information: [Jesus Way Ad.pdf](#) An order sheet for the books is on the back table in the Sanctuary.

Offering Report for Sunday, December 10, 2023

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,408.00

Ministry Spending Plan: \$4,464.00

Monday Meals: \$741.12

Austin Zuercher: \$40.00

Schedule-At-A-Glance for December 17 – 24, 2023

Sunday, December 17 **3rd Sunday in Advent**

Prayer Time, 8:45 am

Coffee Time, 9:00 am

Worship Service, 9:30 am

Bill Seymour preaching

Sunday School, 10:45 am

Wednesday, December 20

Axis Youth Group, 7:00 pm at Sonnenberg Mennonite

Thursday, December 21

K Ladies Lunch at Marilyn Kamp's, 12 noon

Marilyn will provide lunch.

Sunday, December 24 **4th Sunday in Advent**

Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Worship Service, **9:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 pm

Evening Open House at the Seymour's, 7:15 pm

Looking Ahead

December 31

9:15 am Brunch at OMC – then from 10:45 – 11:30 am, we'll bring OMC's worship time to Maple Terrace to especially include our members, Ruth Conrad and Lois Leidig. OrrVilla/Maple Terrace residents will also be invited to join us.

We will not have Sunday School that morning.

January 7

Combined Worship Service at Oak Grove, **10:30 am**; Lunch following. Oak Grove welcomes any who want to visit their Sunday School classes to join them at 9:30 am.

January 8

Monday Meals start up again.

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. More information will come next week.

January 14

Our normal Worship, Sunday School, and 2nd Sunday Carry-In meal.

Orrville Mennonite Church

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 12 noon

Orrville Mennonite Church Website

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Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

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Ministers: Each member of the congregation

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