



Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667

www.orrvillemenno.net

Order of Worship December 1, 2024 First Sunday in Advent

Welcome

Gathering Songs	<i>O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i>	WB 172
	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	WB 178

Call to worship

Leader: Responding to the call of the living God,

People: our rescuer and Savior,

Leader: we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,

People: among and within us.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

All: *we offer ourselves in worship.*

Song	<i>Don't Be Afraid</i>	SJ 105
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Candlelighting

Reader 1: When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, we may ask how to continue on.

Reader 2: When Daniel's persistent prayers brought him between opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry lions in a stone-covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

Reader 1: When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

The first Advent candle is lit

All: *Our path may meander through rocky situations, but we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.*

Love Step Prayer (unison)

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 *How Many Times We Start Again* screen
VT 553

Blessing of the Food Collection

Offering Prayer

Offering Song *God of Our Strength* WB 36

Come forward during the song and place gifts and offerings in vessels for regular offering, Dollar Project and My Coins Count.

Scripture Daniel 6.6-12, 19-27

⁶ So they went to see the king and said, “King Darius, may Your Majesty live forever! ⁷ All of us who administer your empire—the supervisors, the governors, the lieutenant governors, and the other officials—have agreed that Your Majesty should issue an order and enforce it strictly. Give orders that for thirty days no one be permitted to request anything from any god or from any human being except from Your Majesty. Anyone who violates this order is to be thrown into a pit filled with lions. ⁸ So let Your Majesty issue this order and sign it, and it will be in force, a law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed.” ⁹ And so King Darius signed the order. ¹⁰ When Daniel learned that the order had been signed, he went home. In an upstairs room of his house there were windows that faced toward Jerusalem. There, just as he had always done, he knelt down at the open windows and prayed to God three times a day.

¹¹ When Daniel's enemies observed him praying to God, ¹² all of them went together to the king to accuse Daniel. They said, “Your Majesty, you signed an order that for the next thirty days anyone who requested anything from any god or from any human being except you, would be thrown into a pit filled with lions.” →

(Trapped in his own ruling, the king was forced to send Daniel to the lion pit)

¹⁹ At dawn the king got up and hurried to the pit. ²⁰ When he got there, he called out anxiously, “Daniel, servant of the living God! Was the God you serve so loyally able to save you from the lions?”

²¹ Daniel answered, “May Your Majesty live forever! ²² God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me. He did this because he knew that I was innocent and because I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.”

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders for Daniel to be pulled up out of the pit. So they pulled him up and saw that he had not been hurt at all, for he trusted God. ²⁴ Then the king gave orders to arrest all those who had accused Daniel, and he had them thrown, together with their wives and children, into the pit filled with lions. Before they even reached the bottom of the pit, the lions pounced on them and broke all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to the people of all nations, races, and languages on earth:

“Greetings! ²⁶ I command that throughout my empire everyone should fear and respect Daniel's God.

“He is a living God,
and he will rule forever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his power will never come to an end.

²⁷ He saves and rescues;
he performs wonders and miracles
in heaven and on earth.

He saved Daniel from being killed by the lions.”

Message *Competing Systems and Walking with God*

Hymn of Response *Beyond a Dying Sun*

WB 323

Sending blessing

Leader: Go, borrowing the courage of Daniel, in the sure and certain hope of God's faithful presence. →

**All: *May the praise of God be on our lips,
the Holy Spirit at our side,
and the peace of Christ within our hearts. Amen.***

Sermon Response

When have you felt particularly close to God in a hard time?

Prayer Requests

Announcements

Greeters, Judy King, John and Barb Shilling

Usher, Ken Wenger

PA Operator, Norm Sohar

PowerPoint, Bev Squirrell

Song Leader, Jane Beyeler

Advent Reading, Barb and Kara Shilling

Advent Candle Lighter, Emmett Andreasen

Reader, Amber Andreasen

Sharing and Prayer, Kathy and Virgil Troyer

Worship Nursery, Marilyn Kamp

Preschool Nursery, Skyler Lofty

Trustee (December), Ken Wenger

Offering Report for November 24, 2024

Ministry Spending Plan: \$3,250.00

Monday Meals: \$200.00

Dollar Project (Salvation Army): \$69.00

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,555.00

Anabaptist Community Bible: \$89.99

December birthdays and anniversaries

1 Bret Andreasen

4 Bobby Haas

17 Allison Seymour

20 Mel/Mim Wenger

24 Ken Wenger

30 Nathan Kalapodis

Sermon Notes

Announcements

Today, December 1st, is the first Sunday in Advent

*Special Thank you to Nancy Hostetler and Sharon Stutzman
for the Advent/Christmas decorations!*

Our Advent/Christmas worship theme this year is focused on the idea of walking with God and each other. Each Sunday, there will be a focus question. Today's question is

When have you felt particularly close to God in a hard time?

Combined Christmas Song Worship Night.

MennoTable, with Elvis Otieno.

Friday, December 6, 2024 at Trinity UCC in Akron (where our Akron Swahili Church meets). 6:45 – 8:45 pm. English, Spanish, and Swahili speakers may come and worship through song. Each congregation is invited to bring a song or two to share or lead, and we will have group singing as well.

The 36th year of “Search for the Christ Child”, will be held at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, 7843 Smucker Rd., Smithville, OH, Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This is an indoor-outdoor walk-through experience of what the first Christmas may have been like. Dress Warmly! Handicap Accessible. Admission is one article of canned food or toiletries for “People to People Ministries” Everyone is welcome!

You’re invited to a Carol Sing at Orrville Mennonite Church, Sunday, December 15 at 6pm, with cookies and cocoa afterward! A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Monday Meals program, which serves about 200 people per week. All ages and abilities welcome!

The next Widows’ Group get-together is December 11 from 1-2:30 pm.

Schedule-At-A-Glance for December 1 – 8, 2024

Sunday, December 1 **First Sunday in Advent**

Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Worship, **9:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Sunday School, **10:45 am**

Next Sunday, December 8 **2nd Sunday in Advent**

Gathering and Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Worship, **9:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Sunday School, **10:45 am**

No second Sunday carry-in this month

Looking Ahead

December 6	Combined Christmas Worship 6:45 pm In Akron, where Akron Swahili meets
December 11	1:00-2:30 pm – Widows' Gathering at OMC
December 15	6:00 pm – Carol Sing with Amber, here at Orrville Mennonite in the Sanctuary
December 21	6:00-8:00 pm – 60 th birthday party open house for Allison (location TBA)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm Christmas Open House at the Seymour's 7:30 pm

Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St., Orrville, OH 44667

330-682-5801

Email address: omcjan@gmail.com

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

Orrville Mennonite Church Website

www.orrvillemenno.net

Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Staff

Pastor Bill Seymour

omcbill@gmail.com

330-347-7034 (Cell)

Elder Council

Dan Jantzi – Elder for Finance/Facilities & EC Facilitator

dijantzi@gmail.com

208-971-6488 (Cell)

Bill Seymour – Elder for Worship

omcbill@gmail.com

330-347-7034 (Cell)

Louisa Pirozzi Erb – Elder for Missions

louerb@gmail.com

330-317-0726 (Cell)

Bev Squirrel – Elder for Community/Discipleship

joshuasmombev@gmail.com

330-845-3732 (Cell)

Ministers: Each member of the congregation

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