



Orrville Mennonite Church
1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667
www.orrvillemenno.net

Order of Worship
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Gathering Songs *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* WB 178
 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming WB 211

Call to worship Based on Isaiah 40.1-5, 28-31

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem; she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins! A voice is crying out:

Piano Side: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert!"

Offering Side: Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!

Leader: Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain.

All: The Lord's glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the Lord's mouth has commanded it."

Leader: Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.

Piano Side: He doesn't grow tired or weary.

Offering Side: His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted.

All: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

Leader: You are the source of true joy, O God. You expand our vision, lifting our eyes beyond the moment, beyond despair, into amazement.

All: We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.

Singing

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

WB 176

Candlelighting

Leader: We have been wandering in the dark, cold, desert of grief and despair.

Piano Side: We feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

Offering Side: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

All: May your joy water our thirsty souls, that we may become your fountains of joy, freely sharing your joy with the world.

Sing verses 1-3 of the theme song *Come, Hope of the World* as three candles are lit.

Responsive Prayer

Leader: God of promise, we come as exiles in a weary world, our hope dimmed by the weight of the present moment.

Women: Like Mary riding on a donkey toward Bethlehem, we long for home, for restoration, for the joy of the known.

Men: Yet your word goes out, stretching us beyond the limits of our vision, calling all people into your abundance, drawing all creation into your song of joy.

Women: Lift our eyes, O God. Expand our hearts.

All: Renew our hope so that we, like Mary, may step forward in faith, amazed by your provision and ready to follow where you lead.

Singing

We Dream of a Turning

VT 209

Offering Prayer

Offering Song

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

WB 195

Offering

Scripture

Isaiah 55.1-3a,10-13

¹ All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!

Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat!

Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk!

² Why spend money for what isn't food,

and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?→

Listen carefully to me and eat what is good;
enjoy the richest of feasts.

³ Listen and come to me;
listen, and you will live.

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don't return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.

¹² Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.

Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³ In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.

This will attest to the Lord's stature,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

Sermon *Be Amazed – Joy in the Desert*

Song of Response *You Shall Go Out with Joy* WB 427

Love Step Prayer

*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. Amen.*

Benediction

Eat and drink, be filled with the abundant joy of the Lord,
delighting as the Holy Spirit moves here among us.
May your heart be open, ready to receive God's abundant love.
Watch and wonder, for signs of God's promised One are
everywhere. Go in the knowledge that, at any moment, God's

glory will break through our assumptions and amaze us with new possibilities.

Sermon Response

Prayer Requests, Prayer Announcements

Greeters, Bev Squirrell, Mark Bixler
Usher, Willie Miller
PA Operator, Norm Sohar
PowerPoint Operator, Bev Squirrell
Song Leader, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi
Accompanist, Marilyn Rossiter
Preschool/Nursery, Kathy Troyer
Quiet Table, all ages welcome
Reader, Danae King and Charles Bontrager
Sharing & Prayer, Bev Squirrell

The "Quiet Table" is available in the coffee area during the worship services at Orrville Mennonite. People of all ages are welcome to come to do quiet hands-on activities as a way of listening and focusing during the worship time. This area works best if there are equal numbers of adults and children sitting together. If you are someone who enjoys listening while creating, maybe this area will be your new regular pew! Our youngest children will "graduate" to this area after their nursery Sunday School hour. If you have been a nursery volunteer in the past, please consider continuing your relationship with the littles at this table.

Announcements

Monday Meals is closed for the season. We will return on January 6, 2026.

3rd Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Day today! Who has the ugliest sweater? Do we have a consensus?

You're invited to a Carol Sing at Orrville Mennonite Church, this evening at 6pm, with cookies and cocoa afterward! We will be

taking donations to benefit our Monday Meals program, which currently serves about 200 people in our community per week. All ages and abilities welcome! This whole event will be in the Sanctuary and coffee area. Open Arms has an event in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Service at OMC and Open House after at Bill and Allison's – After the Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm, come on over to the Seymour's house for refreshments and fellowship. Everyone is welcome, including your guests and families who join you. Feel free to bring some sort of food to share but come regardless. We'll have some spiced cranberry cider, a cheese ball, and some ham balls.

Reflection and Hymn Sing for December 28

On our last Sunday of the year, December 28, rather than a regular service with a sermon, we'll have a service with readings, hymn sing, and time for reflection. There will be two reflection spaces in the service. The first will invite you to share what you have learned this year in sermons or Sunday School that you wish to remember. The second sharing time will give space for sharing hopes and dreams for our Orrville Mennonite community in the new year. *Due to the sharing within the service the livestream on Dec. 28 will be unlisted. Only people with the link will be able to view it and we will only give the link to people from Orrville Mennonite.*

Join us at Oak Grove Mennonite Church for the 90th Rendition of Handel's Messiah! The performance will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 2:30 pm.

Community Longest Night Service: December 21, 7:00 at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church. Dec. 21st is the winter solstice (the longest night of the year). Darkness is all around us and on that evening, we want to acknowledge the hardships we experience in our world and our lives during this season associated with joy. There are so many reasons we feel this darkness: loss of health, jobs, homes, loved ones and dreams;

injustices, wars, natural disasters, loneliness, financial stress, anxiety and exhaustion. Come at 7:00 to Sonnenberg Mennonite for an evening of gentle worship and thoughtful litanies as we find hope together in the darkness. Share this information with anyone you feel would be interested.

Wild Church will be at Jeanne and Dan's at 3:00 pm on Sunday December 28. All are welcome. The address is 6426 Chippewa Road, Orrville, OH 44667.

The quilt room at MCC Connections Thrift Shop in Kidron is in urgent need of volunteers with seamstress skills to help with binding, serging, and sewing backs for comforters. There is equipment available on site, but work could also be done at home. Please contact Mark Bixler at 330-857-7802 ext. 2# or mark@mccconnections.com for more information or stop by in person.

Schedule-At-A-Glance for December 14 – 21

Sunday, December 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**

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

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Carol Sing/Cookies & Cocoa in sanctuary/coffee area, **6 pm**

Sunday, December 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

Sunday School, **9:30 am**

Worship, **10:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Looking Ahead

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at OMC, **6 pm** and Open House after at Bill and Allison's.

December 28 – Reflection and Hymn Sing for our worship hour (last Sunday of the year)

December 28 – Wild Church at **3 pm** at Dan and Jeanne's

Offering Report for December 7, 2025

Ministry Spending Plan: \$2,310.00

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,367.00

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Bret Andreasen
 Monica Trapp
- 4 Bobby Haas
- 17 Allison Seymour
- 20 Mel/Mim Wenger
- 24 Ken Wenger

Orrville Mennonite Church

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Orrville Mennonite Church Website

Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

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Unless otherwise noted, Bible Passages in the bulletin are from the CEB Bible. *The Common English Bible: Bible dictionary*. Nashville: CEB Bible, 2011. Print.

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