

Epiphany Sunday: Transformed through waiting
First Mennonite Church
January 5, 2020

Call to Worship Chris Gott

One: Oh God, our God, you cry out to us.

Many: Asking, when will you see the light that I am, the grace I have extended to all people, the dance out of the darkness and into righteousness to which I invited you?

One: Can we see that in you we are transformed, unable to go back the way we have known?

All: God, what are we waiting for?

Prelude "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" Arr. John Carter
Elaine Suderman

Invocation

*Hymn "Christ, whose glory fills the skies" HWB 216

*Responsive Reading (from Isaiah 60:1-6)

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

People: Arise! Shine! For our light has come.

Leader: The darkness shall no longer cover the earth.

People: Arise! Shine! For our light has come!

Leader: Gather your children and bring gifts to the Lord.

All: Arise! Shine! And be transformed!

White Gifts

*Hymn "Christ, we do all adore thee" HWB 105

*Confession

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher
"Bright and glorious is the sky" (vs. 1 & 4 coming forward only)
HWB 219

Community prayer Theda Good

Scripture Psalm 147:12-20; Matthew 2:1-12
Jeff Boehr, Melissa Friesen, Cheri Slotter

Sermon "Called to Praise God" Danisa Ndovlu

*Hymn "Arise, your light is come!" STS 30

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Fairest Lord Jesus" Arr. Melody Bober

*Hymn "Worship the Lord in the beauty" (v. 1) HWB 220

*Prayer of dedication

*Hymn "Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem" STS 32

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*HWB Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ-Sing the Journey; STS-Sing the Story
Please ask an usher for large print hymnals.*

In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7-10 a.m., T-W-Th, weekends as needed

Greeter: Gary Wetherill **Chancel:** Anita Lehman **Sound:** Art Shelly

Nursery today: Lori Nester, Pat Sheidler

Worship today: John and Julie Mackey, Ben Hartzler

Nursery next week: Melissa Friesen, Cheri Slotter

Worship next week: Alison and Kevin King, Sophia Gott

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-167, MC-6
Volunteer hours	67.5
Spending plan giving 12-29-19 (w/e-giving)	\$4,522.15
Non-spending plan giving 12-29-19 (w/e-giving):	\$9,239.00
Sojourners-\$115; SHY-\$320; Deacons ben-\$450; ISAF-\$75	
Memorials-\$8,120; Hymnals-\$124	
Total giving 12-29-19 (includes e-giving)	\$13,761.15
2019 spending plan	\$431,854.00

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.