

# Dare To Imagine God's Embrace

## Advent 2

First Mennonite Church  
December 5, 2021

### Gathering

Welcome and Announcements Chris Moser  
Prelude *All Glory Be to God on High* (J.G. Walther)  
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 223 *Bless'd Be the God of Israel*

\*Confession and Assurance

Words and silence led by Worship Leader

Special Music *With My Voice Alone (Moon Seong Mo)*  
Youth Choir

### Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Kendra Nickel

Hymn VT 510 *Today Earth Is Singing* (sing as children come forward and return to their seats – use “children” in the blank text)

Candle Litany

One: We light a candle of peace. And we  
imagine:

**Many: God's tender mercy, God's compassion.**

One: We light the candle of peace to feel God's  
embrace, God's nearness, God's breath.

**Many: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders,  
blessed wonders.**

Scripture Malachi 3:1-4 LOGOS

Community Prayer Steve Harnish

Special Music *Thy Kingdom Come* (Mark Sirett)

“Thy Kingdom come!” on bended knee the passing ages pray;  
And faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that kingdom's day.  
The slow watches of the night not less to God belong;  
And for the everlasting right the silent stars are strong.  
And lo, already on the hills the flags of dawn appear;  
Prepare, prepare ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near.  
The day to whose clear shining light all wrong shall stand revealed,  
When justice shall be throned in might, and every hurt be healed.  
When knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth  
abroad; The day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God.  
(Frederick Lucian Hosmer) Choir Chancel

Scripture Luke 3:1-6 LOGOS

Message *Gods Universal Embrace* Kathy Dickson

### Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response VT 212 *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (K.T. Kosche)

Dedication Prayer

### Sending

\*Hymn of Sending VT 217 *Hark! The Glad Sound!*

\*Benediction

Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)*

*HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book (Blue Bound Book)*

*STJ - Sing the Journey (Green Spiral Book)*

*STS - Sing the Story (Purple Spiral Book)*

*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](http://fmcbluffton.org)**

#### **Church Staff**

- **Pastor Jeff Boehr –419-236-9150, [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Director of Music/Interim Church Administrator – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368, [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)**
- **Administrative Assistant – Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766; [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Custodian – Don Burris, 419-788-6157, [dcburris58@gmail.com](mailto:dcburris58@gmail.com)**

#### **Office Hours**

- **Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00am-3:30pm**
- **Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm**

#### **Pastor Jeff Boehr**

- **Wednesday 9:00am-12:00pm**

**Video:** Ray Raeburn

**Sound:** Kevin Cluts

**Chancel:** Carolyn Rich

**Nursery Care:**

*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.*

**11/21/21 - 11/28/21 Reported Volunteer hours: 27.5**

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