

## Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church

### Advent 4: Dare to Imagine God's Face!

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021

Prelude:

#### Lighting the Peace Lamp

**Focus Statement:** What amazing love is this that the Godhead comes down to us in the little clan of a little people and takes on a human face? With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Savior, by actively participating in God's leveling mercy.

**Theme Song: "Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets"      VT 276**

#### Call to Worship

Come.  
Come as you are.  
Come with your needs, your doubts,  
Your dreams, your hopes.  
Come, expecting God to meet us –  
Here and in the innermost longing of our souls.  
Watch. Wait.  
God is present in our worship!

#### Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

**People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.**

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

**Hymn: "My Soul Proclaims with Wonder"      VT 222**

#### Prayer of Confession

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

**People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.**

Leader: Teach us to love.

**People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.**

Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

**People: Reorientate us to your vision of equality.**

Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

**Words of Assurance**

(adapted from Luke 1: 46-49)

**All: Our souls magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. God has looked with favor on our lowliness. The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.**

**Hymn: "God is Here among Us"**

**VT 62**

**Scripture: Micah 5: 2-5a; Psalm 80: 1-7; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-55**

**Message: presented by Beth Yoder**

**Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**VT 241**

**Offering**

**Sharing and Prayer Concerns**

**Congregational Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**VT 245**

**Benediction:** (a Celtic prayer)

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your heart to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.