

**ERB STREET MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Advent*

**Prelude**

**Gathering Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **VT 245**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices  
in God, my saviour!

*High voices: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

*Low voices: and holy is God's name.*

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up  
the lowly.

**People: Then why do the powerful still dominate in  
our world?**

*(pause)*

**All: Together we wonder.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn** *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* **VT 250**

**Children's Christmas Music**

**Collection of donated items for Community Ministry**

*In the Bulb There is a Flower* **VT 670**  
*Chosen by Hamish Blair*

**Silent Prayer of Attention**

**Scripture Readings** *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46-55*

**Sung Scripture Response** *Longing for Light (v.3)* **VT 715**

**Sermon** Hope for the Hopeless

**Hymn of Response** *My Soul Cries Out* **VT 412**

**Congregational Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Hymn of Sending** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* **VT 252**

**Candle Lighting & Benediction**

Leader: Together we wonder.

**Lighter: How will your goodness win out over evil?**

Leader: Go and hold fast to what is good, rejoice always, and  
make straight the way of the Lord!

**Postlude**

*Coffee and visiting in the Fellowship Hall*

**PARTICIPANTS**

Worship Leader: Margaret Nally

Accompanist: Sheila Wallace, Kayla Wallace Groh

Song Leader: Leah Reesor-Keller

Scripture Readers: Isaac Reesor-Keller, Hamish Blair,  
Tabitha Rogalsky

Sermon: Franz Peters

Congregational Prayer: Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Candle Lighters: Xavier & Indigo Charles

Sound: Andrew Scheifele

Tech Host: Geoff Vanderkooy

Ushers: Tim Kennel, Judy Dyck

Greeters: Ken & Ruth Jantzi, Jo-Anne Matthies