

ERB STREET MENNONITE CHURCH
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Prelude

Gathering Hymn *What Is This Place* **VT 22**

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: Every winter, evergreens pull off a quiet miracle: while broad-leaved trees go bare, evergreens stay green through the darkest, coldest season. May the fresh pine and spruce in this Advent display be a reminder for us of God's evergreen presence, a sprig of Joy in the dark seasons of the year.

Worship Leader: *We light this candle to remind us that the light of Joy shines through those who experience healing, delight, and restoration.*

Reader: Come, O Christ, Light within all Light, and shine upon us in this season and in our gathered time of worship.

All: We worship together in joy. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Advent Poem *From Blossoms* (Li-Young Lee)

Story Circle

Coin Offering *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord* **VT 219**

Offertory Prayer*

Silent Prayer of Attention

Scripture Readings Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-10; Matthew 11:2-10

Sung Scripture Response *Wait for the Lord* **VT 228**

Sermon *Joy in the Midst of Darkness*

Hymn of Response *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* **VT 216**

Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Hymn of Sending *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* **VT 275**

(Chosen by Irene Erb for her 102nd birthday on Dec. 10)

Benediction

Postlude

*Coffee and visiting in the Fellowship Hall
followed by Christmas Variety Program.*

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leader:	Karl Kessler
Accompanist:	Karen Buschert
Song Leader:	Karin Bileski
Candle Lighter:	Amos Rogalsky
Story Circle:	Rae Reid
Scripture Readers:	Brigitte Mapendo (Kinyarwanda)
	Krista Steinmann (English)
Sermon:	Wendy Janzen
Congregational Prayer:	Chip Bender
Sound:	Eric Wildfong
Tech Host:	Joe Wildfong
Ushers:	Bob & Grace Veitch
Greeters:	John & Rosemary Shantz
	Eleanor Snyder