

**Advent 3: Kept waiting by fear**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**December 15, 2019**

Call to Worship Chris Gott

One: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

**Many: Asking, when will I start rejoicing that you are coming? Will I trust your faithfulness to your creation?**

One: Can I be patient enough to trust in your time, instead of my own?

**All: God, what am I waiting for?**

Prelude "Advent Joy" Brian Childers  
Adult Bell Choir

Invocation

\*Hymn "Helpless and hungry" STS 26

*Interspersed between the verses, the Chancel Choir will sing a verse of "What Child is this." Then on verse 3 the congregation and choir will sing simultaneously.*

Youth Choir "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Arr. Harry Simeone

Lighting of the Advent wreath Anne Marie, Jonathan,  
Junia, Quin, and Avila Spelman

\*Hymn "O Long-Awaited" (vs. 1 & 3) HWB pocket

\*Confession

**All: The dark of my truth is suspicion without fact. Forgive my fearing.**

*Silence*

Leader: Thank you, Eternal One, for hearing our prayers.

Cherub Choir "Come, Holy Savior, Come"  
Arr. Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher  
"As the pauper waits for plenty" STS 9  
(vs. 1 & 4 coming forward only)

Community prayer Theda Good

Chancel Choir "Carol of the Advent" arr. Philip Dietterich

Scripture Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11  
Melissa Friesen, Kendra Nickel, Cheri Slotter

Sermon "Go Tell" Wanda Stopher

\*Hymn "I will come to you in the silence" STS 49

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming" arr. D. W. Moore  
Jan Wiebe, flute; LuAnn Stuckey, piano

\*Hymn "Holy child within the manger" (v.2) STS 28

\*Prayer of dedication

\*Hymn "My soul proclaims with wonder" HWB 181

\*Benediction

Postlude "Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming" arr. D. W. Moore

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

**Greeter:** Susie Gratz      **Chancel:** Anita Lehman      **Sound:** Kevin Cluts

**Nursery today:** Gerald Mast, Lori Nester

**Worship today:** Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

**Nursery next week:** Wendy Chappell Dick, Victoria Woods-Yee

**Worship next week:** Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Ana Neufeld Weaver

#### Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-188, MC-6
Volunteer hours	178.5
Spending plan giving 12-8-19 (w/e-giving)	\$14,092.02
Non-spending plan giving 12-8-19 (w/e-giving): Kitchen-\$5.05	\$3,612.99
Sojourners-\$15; SHY-\$70; Deacons ben-\$120; Habitat-\$130	
College schol-\$315; Mennonite-\$370; Syrian student-\$1,000	
ISAF-\$102.24; Hymnals-\$552; Workshop-\$14; VBS-\$669.70;	
Freudige-\$40; JHY-\$20; MCC-\$50; MDS-\$120; MPS-\$20	
Total giving 12-8-19 (includes e-giving)	\$17,705.01
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.*