

# WELCOME TO PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH

*At Portland Mennonite Church we are striving to take seriously the challenge of the prophet Jeremiah to “seek the peace of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7)*



## PASTORS & STAFF

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# WELCOME!



Today we begin Advent, a season in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives and into our world. Over the next four Sundays we will light the candles of the Advent wreath, sing songs of hope and expectation, and hear the story of God coming to us. We are glad you have joined us as we make ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, 'born a child and yet a king.'

Peace to you,  
*Rod Stafford*

On Sunday at 10:45 am please join us in **Zoom** or on **Facebook Live** [www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite/](http://www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite/) and follow along with scriptures and songs in the following pages. The Zoom link is in the weekly update email.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FACILITATORS

#### **Prelude:**

Rachel Yoder

#### **Worship Leader:**

Britt Carlson

#### **Candle lighters:**

Kim Brandt

Marj Nofziger

#### **Song Leader:**

Bruce Kuhns

#### **Musicians:**

Crystal Miller

Mary Wenger

Jim Wenger

Gail Manickam

Gerry Leatherman

Ari Leatherman

Nancy Good

Phil Hostetler

Jeff Coates

Deb Coates

#### **Children's Time:**

Curt Weaver

#### **Sermon:**

Rod Stafford

#### **Technical Support:**

Curt Weaver

Rachel Joy

Henry Janzen

Tom Miller

Prelude

Greeting

Isaiah 64:1-5a

Lighting the First Candle

♪ 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus' / *Hymnal, A Worship Book* 178

Children's Time

Mark 13:32-37

♪ 'Christ is coming! Let creation' / *Hymnal, A Worship Book* 295

Sermon: "Surprised by Hope"

Prayers

♪ 'Hope is a candle' / *Sing the Story* 15

Announcements

Benediction

Sharing Joys and Concerns

# Today's Worship

## Prelude

## Greeting

### Isaiah 64:1-5a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

### Lighting the First Candle

Leader:

In our homes  
we gather around wreaths  
to pray our lost hopes,  
broken peace, limited joys,  
and love so hard to find and share,  
in this season of coronavirus.  
We affirm that our candles mean  
we claim the power to call this season Advent  
when God's light comes into the world  
and nothing can overcome it.

People:

**We light the candle of hope in the face of a resurgent pandemic, deep political divides, the disappointment of cancelled holiday plans, and impatience for racial justice.**

Leader:

God's hope shines on hopelessness,  
and brightens the path toward peace.

People:

**Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen**

♪ — 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus' / WB 178

**Verse 1**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus!  
Born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

**Verse 2**

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
Raise us to they glorious throne.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, ca. 1830  
Arrangement: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 adapted 1951 c. Oxford University Press*

**Children's Time**

**Mark 13:32-37**

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

♪ — 'Christ is coming! Let creation' / WB 295, verses 1, 3, 4

**Verse 1**

Christ is coming! Let creation  
from its groans and travail cease.  
Let the glorious proclamation  
hope restore and faith increase:  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come, thou blessed Prince of peace.

**Verse 3**

Long thine exiles have been pining,  
Far from rest, and home, and thee.  
But in heav'nly vestures shining,  
Soon they shall thy glory see!  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Haste the joyous jubilee!

**Verse 4**

With that blessed hope before us,  
Let no harp remain unstrung.  
Let the mighty advent chorus  
Onward roll from tongue to tongue:  
"Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

*Text: John R. MacDuff, 1853. Music: Joachim Neander, 1680*

**Sermon: "Surprised by Hope"**

**Prayers**

**Please Pray For...**

- Clair and Carol Stauffer, former members at PMC. Carol, who is suffering from severe Alzheimers and has been in a memory care unit, fell last week and broke her hip. The family has decided not to go ahead with surgery and so she has been placed on hospice care and is resting comfortably in the nursing home. Pray that the family will be at peace with their decision as they walk through this time with Carol
- Britt Carlson, who will have surgery on her heel on Tuesday
- Caroline Scott, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Chuck Fondse, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Debra Hubbard, who is being treated for health issues

## ♪ — 'Hope is a candle' / SS 15

### Verse 1

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,  
Never consumed, though it burns through the years;  
Dim in the daylight of power and privilege—  
When they are gone, hope will shine on.

### Verse 2

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,  
Threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.  
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows—  
Violence and force their dead-end course.

### Verse 3

Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,  
Where ev'ry face is the face of a friend.  
Widen the circle by sharing and giving—  
God's holy dare: love every-where.

### Verse 4

Joy is a candle of myst'ry and laughter,  
Myst'ry of light that is born in the dark;  
Laughter at hearing the voice of an angel,  
Ever so near, casting out fear.

### Verse 5

Christ is the light that the prophets awaited,  
Christ is the lion, the lamb, and the child.  
Christ is the love and the myst'ry and laughter—  
Candles, make way! Christ is the day.

*Text: Richard Leach, 1994. c. 1995 Selah Publishing Co, Inc. Permission to stream this music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #M-734252. All rights reserved.*

*Music: Scottish folk melody*

## Announcements

## Benediction

## Sharing Time

(Not streamed to Facebook)

## Announcements

### Advent Wreaths

Each Sunday of Advent we light candles as a sign of our trust that God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it. Because we will be in our homes when we gather on-line for worship during Advent, we would like everyone to prepare a wreath with four candles. It can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Four tea lights on a round plate will do. A woven wreath of evergreens and holly with three purple candles and one pink candle will also be fine. If you can only find one candle in your cupboard, that will work. You can probably even find an app on your smartphone. In any case, each week at the beginning of our services we will light the candles together and pray that God will light hope, peace, joy, and love on the wicks of our lives.

### PMC Annual Meeting

(December 6, noon, via Zoom):

**Everyone at PMC is welcome to join the Annual Meeting on December 6.** Members will be asked to vote on two recommendations from the Leadership Table. First, three people are being recommended for leadership roles at PMC — David Johnson as Table Chair, Sarah Holcomb as Worship Elder, Ed Shirk as Facilities Elder. If affirmed, each will serve three year terms on the Leadership Table. Second, a budget is being recommended to fund the life and ministries of the church in 2021.

[THE AGENDA AND MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE](#)

**Christmas Cooking Class: Sides & Pie** Thursday, Dec 17 / 5:00-6:15 pm  
**with Katherine Deumling, Founder/CEO Cook With What You Have**

Join us for this fun 75-minute class featuring four recipes. Flavorful sides, salads and starters that might outshine the turkey? Vegetables take center stage in savory and creative dishes that leave you with room for pie. And a pie crust technique that is impossibly flaky and easy to work with.

- We'll make a starter, a side and a salad.
- We'll make a pie—from making the dough, to rolling, filling and crimping.
- You'll receive a packet with detailed recipes presented in class with cook-along instructions if you'd like to participate in the moment.

These dishes include Katherine's all time favorite preparation for Brussels sprouts and a dip/starter that is as beautiful as it is delicious. The pie technique may change your (pie) life as it has mine. It can be used for anything from chocolate, pumpkin, to apple or cherry pie or used as a galette dough. These dishes are sure to provide some cheer this season as we might not be able to be with all of our loved ones.

A week before the event, all those who have registered will receive a link to the Zoom event and the recipe packet. Register online on our [Advent page](#).

*Announcements continue on next page*

*Announcements continued*

**"Broken or Not?" An Evening of Storytelling with Frans van der Horst** Saturday, Dec 12 / 7:00 pm  
(streaming live on PMC's Facebook page)—Frans van der Horst will again present an evening of storytelling. When he was the manager of a rent-subsidized apartment complex in Portland, Frans met remarkable people coping on the edges of poverty, mental illness and past abuse. You might say they were broken, but these stories also reveal how they were not. Kathy van der Horst will also sing. The stories and songs will surprise and lift your spirits.

**Thank you** for all the care, support, and comfort throughout Dick's illness and death. We are grateful to be part of this community. Heidi, Norma, and the rest of the Noordijk family.

**Fair Trade Fruit and Coffee**

Have you missed purchasing the fair trade fruit, coffee, and tea from Level Ground? Good news! It is once again available through PMC. [Simply click on the link](#) and fill out your request. Paula Brunk Kuhns will contact you to confirm the order, arrange for payment, and figure out delivery or pick up details.

**Do you recycle your cans and bottles?**

**Will you support Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School with your recycling?**

SMMS continues operating during this pandemic with distance-learning Zoom sessions for the children, home activity "kits" for students organized by our wonderful teacher, and occasional outdoor social-distancing in a park. So we are continuing fund-raising as well. If you will save your cans and bottles in one of our SMMS pre-labeled bags and simply drop the bag off when full at any BottleDrop location in the metro area, the deposit money is credited to the school. Very easy and "no contact" required! As an added incentive, Bottle Drop is having a "holiday giving" promotion from November 15 to December 1. SMMS will be credited 20% extra for each bag dropped off during that window. FAQs about BottleDrop and list of their locations can be found at <https://www.bottledropcenters.com/> Ready to get started? We will deliver the bag to your home. Just e-mail Anne Stites at stitesanne@gmail.com with your address for that bag delivery....thank you!!

**Nightstrike is beginning again in a new form**

**Sunday, Dec 13 / 3:00-5:30 pm**

Nightstrike under the bridge is not happening during COVID, but they are now running walkabout outreach opportunities every Sunday from 3 - 5:30 pm downtown and PMC will join every 2nd Sunday of the month. Our next date is Dec 13. We are given 8 slots to fill. Due to COVID, we will not be carpooling together, but will meet on location. Parking should be easy on Sundays. If you are interested, [go to the link on the PMC website](#) to sign up. Kids can join with their parents. We are also seeking donation of new socks, small unopened and unused toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, small shampoos/conditioners and deodorant), and gloves and hats in good condition to share with the people we meet. Contact Susan Voss-Rothmeier with any questions.

**Stephen Ministry can help**

In times of stress, conflict, pandemics, or forest fires you can find emotional support from PMC's Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is a way our congregation provides high-quality care and outreach to people who could use some support and encouragement in the congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one Christ-centered confidential care. Over the past four years, PMC has trained 28 members of the church to care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, family issues, and many other life difficulties. You do not need to face these problems alone, a Stephen Minister will walk beside you. To find out more about this ministry, contact: Pastor Britt Carlson, Stephen Leaders Connie Brown, Tim Klassen, Joleen Classen.

[Check out the web page: www.portlandmennonite.org/stephen-ministry](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/stephen-ministry)

# O Night Divine

## ADVENT IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Advent is a four-week season of preparation and hope. We make ourselves ready for the coming of God's love and justice into our lives and our world. With the resurgence of the coronavirus, we are adapting all of our plans.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

We are doing our very own PMC Advent Devotional this year with the theme of "O Night Divine." All households will receive a copy in the mail before the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 29). If you are NOT in the directory and would like a copy, email Britt at [britt@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:britt@portlandmennonite.org) and she can add you to the list.

### AN INVITATION TO YOUNG AND OLD

*Sunday evenings during Advent / 7:00 PM*

*Silent night Holy night*  
AN ADVENT BEDTIME RITUAL

We invite you to join the rest of the congregation for **15 mins** on Zoom at 7pm on Sunday evenings during Advent.

## Staying Connected This Week

### Monday Morning Pastor “Coffee Time”

Monday / 9:00 am

On Mondays, 9:00-9:30 am, Britt (occasionally Rod or Curt) hosts a “coffee time” via Zoom for anyone who would like to check in together as the week begins. The link is on our website (staying connected page).

To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/368828512?pwd=bkNDb25xUVgrTG9kZG9vbGU1UnZnUT09>

### Friday Morning Coffee Group

Fridays / 10:00 am

A group of PMCs continues to meet, now via Zoom, every Friday morning for an informal social time.

If you’d like to join, contact Linda Rush or the church office for more information.

### COVID Chronicles Podcast

The PMC podcast [COVID Chronicles](#) is a good way to stay connected with your PMC friends. New episodes drop every few days. Find it on the PMC website by simply scrolling down the home page, or look for it on PodBean. When you’d like to get in on the fun, contact host Gloria Nussbaum, 503-645-0616.

You can also find most of these links on our website at: [www.portlandmennonite.org/online-church](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/online-church)

## Land Acknowledgement

As we learn about the Doctrine of Discovery, we recognize that the land on which our meetinghouse is located and the land on which many of us live was previously home to Native American peoples who were decimated and uprooted as this area was settled. The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla and many other tribes who lived and traveled along the Columbia River, creating communities and summer encampments to harvest and use the plentiful natural resources of the area.

## PMC & COVID-19

Join us on FB Live Sunday Morning at 10:45 am, or check our page for updates throughout the week [www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite](http://www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite). To join our Zoom meeting for worship, sign up for our [weekly update](#).

Check out our website [www.portlandmennonite.org](http://www.portlandmennonite.org) for news, sermons, event information, and ways to stay connected with each other.

PMC Staff are minimizing time in the office. Please email us for fastest response. We also check voicemail remotely.

### Electronic Giving

We have a variety of options for financial contributions, including by credit card, or direct debit from your bank account. Checks may be mailed to the church office at 1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland OR 97214. Rachel opens the mail once a week. For details and forms, go to [www.portlandmennonite.org/give](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/give). You can also check with your bank about sending electronic payments. Contact Rachel Joy ([office@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:office@portlandmennonite.org)) if you have any questions.