

**Sermon:** What's Important to You?  
-Pastor Seth

**Hymn of Response:** VT#420 God of the Bible

### **Benediction**

*"The celebration of Christmas is a ritual touchstone of the divine love that is ours. The nativity is one sign. At times we need multiple signposts of God's Kingdom to embrace the good news. ... God speaks to us through creation, through signs and wonders, through other people who offer words of comfort and wisdom, and most of all through the incarnation – Emmauel, God with us."*  
- Gerber and Lantz, *Comfort and Joy*, pg. 118

Practice: Say 'Thank you' to a person who has been a signpost to God's unconditional love in your life. Maybe call them, write them a card, draw a picture, take them out for a cup of coffee. Share with them how you have experienced comfort or wisdom or love in their presence.

### **Postlude**

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## CALENDAR

### **This Week:**

- Today, Worship: *What's Important to you?:* Pastor Seth; Handel's Messiah: 2:30PM
- Sunday, December 22: *Mary's Song:* Pastor Seth
- Wednesday, December 18: JYF Christmas party--meet in Youth Room from 7:00-8:30 pm, bring a white elephant gift for an exchange.
- Sunday, December 22: White Envelope Gift Offering (offering envelopes are available)  
Church Board suggested designations:  
*Manna for Many: "An Anabaptist Mission"*  
*MDS - Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton areas*  
*Homeward Bound - Wooster Homeless Shelter*  
*UNDESIGNATED GIFTS will go to the 2024 Oak /Grove Spending Plan*  
*All other designations will be honored*

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service: 6:30 PM



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**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**Prelude:** Anna Gerber, flute; Mary Miedel, violin; Maria Zehr, piano

**Welcome:** Anson Miedel, worship leader

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: Merciful One; you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

**People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.**

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

**People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.**

**May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.**

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

**All: We delight and rejoice in you.**

### **Prayer**

**Hymns:** VT#763 Waterfall

VT#218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- Nate Gundy, song leader

**Community Life Announcements** – Please sign the welcome pads

**Children's Time:** Krista Mast

**Advent Candle Lighting:** Jolene Jaquet & Maggie Wenger

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering:** Anna Gerber, flute; Mary Miedel, violin; Maria Zehr, piano

**Hymn:** VT#217 Hark! The Glad Sound!

**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1-2 ; Luke 4.14-21

## Sunday December 8, 2024

### **Worship: 180**

#### **Offering:**

\$10,429.00 - Spending Plan

\$50.00 - MYF Fundraiser

### **THIS SUNDAY, 12.15.24**

Greeters: 9AM Scott & Jolene Jaquet & family: 10AM John & Mary Lynn Miller

Nursery: Jen/Mara Steiner & Sue Turskey

### **NEXT SUNDAY, 12.22.24**

Greeters: 9AM Rob Stutzman & family: 10AM Matt & Beth Falb & family

Nursery: Elise Bontrager & Gloria Miller

### **Happy Birthday!**

15 Hannah Rowlands

16 Isabella Murray

18 Nancy Douce

18 Evan Falb

19 Caris Lyons

19 Joel Otto

20 Nate Pyle

### **Happy Anniversary!**

19 Howard & Ellen Nikkel

19 Bruce & Donna Kindy

19 Ryan & Kristen Conrad

### **Please Remember in Prayer:**

- Steve Gill as he recovers from hip and back surgery.
- Judy & Glenn Buller and Brett Buller and family as they mourn the passing of Judy's mother, Ruth L. Steiner, on December 9. An obituary can be found on Spidell Funeral Home's website.
- Mission Associates supported by Oak Grove
  - Kate Widmer (MMN) - France
  - Matthew and Toni Krabill (MMN) - Ghana, West Africa
  - Austin and Griselda Zuercher (EMM) - Honduras

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**From the Search Committee:** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! For all of the MANY ways you helped with The Search! Through your prayers, cookie donations, carrying over the Search props, set up crews, Jr.High Youth set up of the FC, office help, video, music, clean up crew and all of the participants the night of the Search! It takes all of us to pull together to present The Search! Many were blessed by the part you played. Thank you all.

Number attended: 522

Number of workers: 114

Total money collected: \$457.82 plus a truckload of groceries

- Tax collector: \$162.22
- Lepers: \$144.55
- Beggars: \$122.35
- Sanctuary: \$28.67

**We will be taking down the Messiah risers Monday evening,** December 16th at 6 PM. Lots of help would be appreciated! Thanks, Property Commission

**Parents of Primary Sunday School Children:** The Primary Sunday School children will be singing with the adult choir on Sunday, December 22. They will practice with the adult choir on Monday, December 16 in the church sanctuary from 6:30-7PM and at 8:45 AM on Sunday, December 22.

**World Crafts artisan's market in Kidron provides vital income to artisans in global communities.** You are invited for a special shopping evening on Monday, December 16 from 6:00-8:00 pm! As you choose your Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers, know that your purchases help feed and educate families and children around the world. If you've never been to World Crafts, Monday evening is a great opportunity!

**Green Schools Giving "Tree"** In the past, Oak Grove has purchased requested items for specific children through the Green Local Schools around Christmas time. The school has changed their program, and are asking for gift cards instead to be distributed throughout the year. There is a poster hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby with a gift card tree. There are placeholders for different gift cards that are needed - gas, groceries or retail stores. Please take one or more placeholder cards and purchase a corresponding gift card between \$10-\$50. Return the gift cards to the envelope hanging next to the posterboard. We will collect gift cards through the end of December.

**The "mitten tree" is back up again this year.** We will be collecting gloves, hats, socks, underwear, and any other donations to help keep people warm this winter. All items will be donated to People to People.

**We are still looking for volunteers for greeters and the nursery during worship services.** If you are interested in helping, please email the church office: [office@oakgrovemc.org](mailto:office@oakgrovemc.org) or leave a note in the letter box on the wall by the office.