

BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

HENDERSON, NEBRASKA

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent



The scriptures for this year's Advent Series, "Be Amazed!" speak of dry bones, a fiery furnace, a mystic's monologue, and the birth and adult ministry of Christ. Together, these scriptures have a common theme, and that is "they are amazing!" In each of them, there is a common thread of God acting in powerful and astonishing ways. The response seen in many of these passages is that of awe. We are encouraged to be amazed! As we journey together through Advent, we pray that you will in your own unique ways find wonder in the work that God has done and is currently doing in your lives and in our midst.

Imagine stepping into a blazing furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a trial by fire, trusting God with your life. Although today's trials seem less terrifying, they are still trials—stories of injustice, poverty, and tragedy from our lives, communities, and the larger world. At the beginning of Advent, as daylight diminishes and we wonder how long the night will last, we also tell amazing stories of hope, stories of a God who saves so that we may emerge singing "Sometimes a Light Surprises" (*Voices Together* 618, verse 4):

Though all the fields should wither,
nor flocks nor herds be there,
yet God, the same abiding,
through praise shall tune my voice,
for while in love confiding I cannot but rejoice.

Prelude

Sandra Quiring, Pianist

Welcome & Call to Worship
(**Congregation read bold print**)

Steve Michel

God of our ancestors,
you are our constant hope through all the ages.

We come eager for stories of you standing among us.

**We come longing to feel your presence
among your people once again.**

As the days darken around us, hope can feel a distant memory.

**Even in the middle of trials, we keep our eyes on you.
Our allegiance is to you alone.**

Trust in God's steadfast love.
Stand in amazement,
ready to recognize God already among us here, in this place.

**Our hope is in you, O God.
Fill our hearts with the courage of our ancestors.
Ready us to enter their story and be amazed.**

*"When we walk with the Lord" HWB 544
(*Children are invited to come forward on stanza 4*)

Children's Focus Pastor J Epp

*"How firm a foundation" HWB 567

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope Jacinta Wall
(*Jacinta is the daughter of Mike and Pastor Andrea Wall.*)

(congregation read bold print)

We have been wandering in the dark,
fear engulfing us like a burning furnace.
We long for your hope to find us and
silence the flames of our fears.

**Come, Hope of the world. Come amaze us.
May your hope flood the flames of our fears.**

"Come, Hope of the World" (see Bethesda News)

Congregational Prayer Pastor Chelsea Vaught

*"O God, our help in ages past" HWB 328

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1, 8-18 Pastor Andrea Wall
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Message **"Be Amazed!: Hope in the Furnace"** Pastor Andrea Wall

* "O come, O come, Immanuel" (Verses 1-4) HWB 172

Announcements Steve Michel

Offering to God Steve Michel
Offertory Sandra Quiring

* Benediction Pastor Andrea Wall

* "Hark! The glad sound!" HWB 184

** If you are able, you are invited to stand.*

All are invited to participate in the Christian education hour
and to stop by the Coffee Spot in the Fellowship Hall.

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Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 402-723-4562
Email: bethesda@mainstaycomm.net or
treasurer@bethesdamc.org
Website: www.bethesdamc.org

- When you are unable to attend worship, please join us via...
 - Radio at KOOL 103.5 FM
 - Livestream at <http://bethesdamc.org/watch-live>
 - Cobalt Cable Channel #3207
- Hearing Impaired Worshipers: If you need hearing assistance, feel free to sit in the front center seating to take advantage of our Hearing-Loop system. Williams units are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for your use.
- When you desire pastoral care outside of office hours, please call:
 - Pastor Andrea Wall: 402-710-3195 (cell) or email andrea@mainstaycomm.net
 - Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004 (cell) or email chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org
 - Pastor J. Epp: 402-366-7475 (cell) or email j.epp@bethesdamc.org
- In addition to assistance from Bethesda pastors and deacons, domestic abuse support services are available to victims. Call (toll-free) 1-877-388-4673, 24 hours/day.

BE Amazed!

First Sunday of Advent

Hope in the Furnace

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025