

# BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH

HENDERSON, NEBRASKA

Sunday, December 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

BE  
*Amazed!*

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 standing on a hill and peering through a powerful telescope at star clusters billions of light-years away. From the Creator of this mysterious vastness is gifted to you a single word — *love*. See it move as a baby's hand in the light of a candle's tiny flame. Amid the noise of violence and the dirty straw of your darkest hour, wait and look for the light — God's gift dwelling here.

Prelude Laura Steingard, Organist  
"Organ prelude of Christmas hymn arrangements"

\*"Joy to the World" HWB 318

Welcome & Call to Worship Kathryn Goertzen  
*Based on John 1:1-18*

**(Congregation read bold print)**

In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.

**We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**We wait with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

**We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.**

Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

**The Light is coming!**

**We tremble in excitement and uncertainty.**

**Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.**

\*"Angels we have heard on high" HWB 197  
(Children are invited to come forward on stanza 4)

Children's Focus Tara Maltsberger

\*"Hark! the herald angels sing" HWB 201

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Joy Kairi Siebert  
(Kairi is the daughter of Alex and Melissa Siebert.)

**(congregation read bold print)**

We have been wandering in the long, dark night, looking into the vastness, looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in your love.

**Come, Love of the world. Come amaze us.**

**May your love dispel the darkness and reveal your path of grace and mercy, inviting us to journey with you.**

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

Congregational Prayer Alan Janzen

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18 Pastor J Epp

**Leader:** This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

Message Pastor J Epp

**"Be Amazed!: Love comes down"**

\* "Love came down at Christmas" HWB 208

Announcements Kathryn Goertzen

Offering to God Kathryn Goertzen

Offertory Laura Steingard, Organist

"Lo how a rose e'er blooming" - Leavitt

\* Benediction

Pastor J Epp

\* "O come, all ye faithful"

HWB 212

*\* 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  
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Website: [www.bethesdamc.org](http://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](mailto:andrea@mainstaycomm.net)
  - Pastor Chelsea Vaught: 402-363-7004 (cell) or email [chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org](mailto:chelsea.vaught@bethesdamc.org)
  - Pastor J. Epp: 402-366-7475 (cell) or email [j.epp@bethesdamc.org](mailto:j.epp@bethesdamc.org)

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*Amazed!*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Love comes down*

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HENDERSON, NEBRASKA  
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