



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Sunday after Christmas can be difficult. Everyone is on an emotional high and begins the descent. Someone suggested we make this Sunday a day of sharing and participation with lots of singing. Charlotte Warkentine led the group and asked various people to participate. We thought you might be interested in the story of the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas,' which Charlotte shared. Being I did not prepare a sermon, I wrote a poem for this Sunday. Some people thought it should be in our newsletter. So I will submit my poem as my contribution this month. We hope all of you had a good Christmas and wish for you God's blessing in the New year.

Jesus – A Gift or the Light

We like to think
there may be link

to generous giving
and holy living

We often proclaim
and try to explain
that giving to those who have none
Is like God giving us his Son.

However, the mystery of God coming
to earth
by the miraculous virgin birth
cannot be understood like a gift from a
friend
that I gladly receive and joyfully
possess.

The Child born that night
came to earth as the light
that reveals to us what we do not
understand
about God's presence and will for our
land

The world did not recognize our Lord
They eventually killed him with the
sword.
His own people rejected him.

His teaching offended them.

Jesus came not as a gift to possess
but as the saviour to confess.
I urge you now
to make a vow
to walk in the light
to fight the good fight
that overcomes the darkness
that threatens to engulf us.

And so you will be part of God's family
on Earth
by miracle of the new birth
called to turn the darkness of night
into the sunshine of God's delight
and so hope for the future lies
not in airplanes, bombs or spies
but in those who have become yeast
and leaven
consenting to the reign of God on
Earth as in Heaven.

*by Moses Mast
for the last Christmas of
the 20th century at Joy Mennonite*

Editorial

by
Jacob Hostetler

And So He Shall Be Called...

Advocate, Living Water, Teacher,
Dayspring, Chief Cornerstone, the
Rock. There can be no man stronger.
Alpha and Omega, he is the beginning
and the end. Man of sorrows, who fills
our lives with the living water.

And so he shall be called.

I have been blessed to know that I am
a part of this 'unchained melody.' The

circle of life. I have faith that he will be
by my side. The wonderful counselor,
the image of the invisible God. And I
praise Him with each new day, I praise
Him. I feel it's a blessing to continue
the circle and share with new people
the bread of life, I thank Him.

And so He shall be called.

Our Everlasting Father is always there
to comfort us and guide us. He is a
faithful and true witness. It doesn't
matter if you spend your life searching
for the answer, because you simply
may be asking the wrong question. We
follow the path of our lives blinded until
we can see the light. We speak his

word and teach his way without ever
knowing that we just helped another of
Gods children to find their voice.

And so He shall be called.

He is the Resurrection and the Life.
the Door, the Author and Finisher of
our faith. Redeemer, the bright and
morning Star.

For thou, Lord, has made me glad
through thy work; I will triumph in the
works of thy hands. Ps 92:4.

He is the way, the truth and the life.

And so he shall be called.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to the members of their church. Each element of the carol is a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtledoves are the Old and New Testament

Three French hens stands for Faith, Hope, and Love

Four calling birds and the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Five golden rings recall the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament

Six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation

Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit

Eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galations 5)

Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples

Finally, twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

Coming Events

Business meeting January 15th

Mennonite World conference: World Fellowship
Sunday January 23rd

News

Both Bill and Thea Klassen retired at the end of this year. We wish them well in this next step in their lives.

Christmas caroling was a good event for us this year. After a pot luck dinner we sang at eight homes of elderly people and then at the university hospital where Brian Warkentine works.

Joy Mennonite Church meets at 504 NE 16th (just west of the oil derrick on Lincoln Blvd., south of the State Capitol.) We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

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Joy Mennonite Church



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