



# Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation  
Midlands Mission Center  
Welcoming the online community  
Kansas City, KS  
December 22, 2024 10:30AM CDT

## A Vision of Justice Advent theme: PEACE

Presiding Priest Sandra Billings

### Announcements

### Welcome

Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" CCS #436

\*Hymn "Silvery Star, Precious Star" CCS #419

### \*Invocation

### \*Response

Invitation to Worship Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Advent Special Joyce Shipley

Advent Hymn "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" CCS #415

### Peace Greeting

Hymn "Hope Is a Light" CCS #398 v2, 5

### Peace in sign language

Scripture Reading Part 1 Luke 1:39-45

Spiritual Practice: Visio Divina

Scripture Reading Part 2 Luke 1:46-55

Hymn "Peace Child" CCS #402

Proclamation of the Word Elder Rob de Zwart

Hymn "Blessed Be the God of Israel" CCS #396

Disciples' Generous Response Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a-b

*2a. Become a people of the Temple--those who see violence but  
proclaim peace, who feel conflict yet extend the hand of  
reconciliation, who encounter broken spirits and find pathways for  
healing.*

*2b. Fulfill the purposes of the Temple by making its ministries  
manifest in your hearts. It was built from your sacrifices and  
searching over many generations. Let it stand as a towering symbol  
of a people who knew injustice and strife on the frontier and who  
now seek the peace of Jesus Christ throughout the world.*

### Prayer for Peace

#### Poem

Hymn of Advent Peace "What Child Is This" CCS #432

#### Peace Prayer

Focus Scripture for this week Luke 2:1-20

\*Hymn of Celebration "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" CCS #423

### \*Benediction

\*Congregation standing as able

Bethel Community of Christ [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](http://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)

Pastor: Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer: Jeff Cady

Media Host: David Troeh

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## **Announcements**

- **Sunday 12/22 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – Luke 1:39-55  
**10:30 am A Vision of Justice** – Rob de Zwart
- **Tuesday 12/24 7:00 pm** Together Tuesday CANCELLED
- **Wednesday 12/25 Christmas**
- **Sunday 12/29 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – Luke 2:41-52  
**10:30 am Listen & Ask Questions** – Stan Troeh
- **Community of Christ draft statement/survey on Nonviolence**  
<https://cofchrist.org/draft-statement/>
- **Stassi Cramm's Pastoral Letter** on church leadership changes  
<https://bit.ly/4etLfyI>
- Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links  
[bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)
- Give through [eTithing](https://www.cofchrist.org/give) (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)  
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

**Lectionary:** 3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our scripture

**This Week December 22 [A Vision of Justice](#)**

**Luke 1:39-55** Micah 5:2-5a  
Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10  
Doctrine and Covenants 161:2a-b

**Christmas December 25 [Good News of Great Joy](#)**

**Luke 2:1-20** Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14

**Next Week December 29 [Listen and Ask Questions](#)**

**Luke 2:41-52** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17  
Doctrine and Covenants 162:7c-d

## **Poem for Prayer for Peace**

A weary hand pounds on the door of an inn,  
and there is not room!

*No room, God of peace, for peace to be born.  
Oh, how we need your gift of peace!*

Peace unwilling to sleep in the shadows,  
unwilling to live and die  
in speeches made and slogans said.

*Surely there is room for peace?*

Peace beyond politics, power, and position.

Peace that wages war against conflict,  
avarice, and inequity  
in a world where peace for me  
and mine alone is not peace at all.

—Danny Belrose in *Wave Offerings*, Herald House 2005.

## **Peace Prayer**

Keeper of the Great Shalom,

You carry such a broad and expansive universe on your shoulders yet make yourself known to us in this season of Advent and expectation for the coming Christ. Help us strive for peace like water rushing toward the ocean. As water brings life, allow peace to generate new life in us. As water carves new lands and patterns into being, allow peace to create new spaces in our lives and communities. As water flows on to nourish many places unseen, allow peace to flow through us to create new bonds of life again. God, allow the birth of the Christ child to nourish us anew. Help us bring peace into the world each day. Amen.

# Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

## Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)

The Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission, through the Graceland University Community of Christ Seminary, has opened fall classes for enrollment. To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit [graceland.edu/CIMM](http://graceland.edu/CIMM). Cost is \$25 unless noted.

### *Spring A (January 6–March 2, 2025)*

- **Introduction to Pastors Ministry** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Disciple** – Apostle Robin Linkhart
- **Christian Ministries Certificate: Practical Ministry** – Zac Harmon-McLaughlin (\$100)

### *Spring B (March 3–April 27, 2025)*

- **Introduction to Priesthood Ministry** – Rick Maupin
- **Ministry of the Seventy** – Bethany Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Teacher** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Bishop** – Presiding Bishop Carla Long
- **Christian Ministries Certificate: Dialogue, Understanding, and Peacemaking** – Andrew Bolton (\$100)

### *Upcoming CIMM Sessions*

CIMM Sessions are short seminars on topics of theology, culture, and Community of Christ Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs and practices. These sessions are broadcast live on **Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday nights**. To register, please visit [www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions](http://www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions).

- Dec 4 – Star Trek Community – Star Trek Community Group
- Dec 9 – Worship in a Changing Culture part 1 – Tyler Marz & Karin Peter
- Dec 11 – Becoming a Prophetic People – Linda Stanbridge
- Dec 18 – Worship in a Changing Culture part 2 – Tyler Marz & Karin Peter
- Jan 8 – Listening with the Lectionary – Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith



Midlands Mission Center

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## SAVE THE DATE

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|----------------|---|
| Dec 3          | <b>Giving Tuesday:</b> <a href="http://cofchrist.org/giving-tuesday">cofchrist.org/giving-tuesday</a> |
| Dec 7          | The Huixqui Sisters Concert   |
| Dec 14         | Ministry of the Priest class @ Shawnee Drive  |
| Feb 28 - Mar 2 | TWIST @ Shawnee Drive   |

## NONVIOLENCE STATEMENT FEEDBACK

In response to 2019 WCR 1319, the First Presidency has crafted a draft Statement on Nonviolence. You are invited to read the statement and provide feedback on each section **by February 28, 2025**. The FP will review the feedback and update as necessary by May 2025.

Statement: [bit.ly/NonviolenceStatement](http://bit.ly/NonviolenceStatement) (click “Draft Statement”)

Survey: [bit.ly/NonviolenceSurvey](http://bit.ly/NonviolenceSurvey)

## JOB OPENING

### Midlands Fulltime Peace & Justice Specialist

The Peace and Justice Specialist will work with individuals and groups in MMC to support diversity and inclusion of all persons. This includes working with individuals and groups to foster acceptance and understanding of social injustice. The specialist will initiate actions to inform, encourage, and facilitate community development. For more information and an application visit [bit.ly/MMCPeace](http://bit.ly/MMCPeace).

## Under the Spire Concert Series

The Temple Sanctuary is a world class performance space. As you sit beneath a 195-foot nautilus inspired spiral ceiling, you will feel the music soar in this unique acoustic environment. We are hosting gifted folk musicians who write and perform songs that evoke inspiration and peace. There is no ticket fee, but we do suggest a \$20 donation. Cost shouldn't be a barrier to participation. This series is sponsored by Community of Christ and the Independence Square Association. For more information, please visit [www.centerforlivingwater.org/concerts](http://www.centerforlivingwater.org/concerts).

### *The Huixqui Sisters*

**7pm Saturday, December 7**

The Huixqui Sisters – pronounced like "whiskey" – are a vocal duet accompanied by guitar and keys. They create custom arrangements of their favorite songs across a variety of genres, with a vocal blend only achieved by sisters and vocal precision. Originally from the small town of Huixquilucan (whikey-loo-kahn), Mexico, their hometown inspires identity and artistic passions. From the artist: It is in honor of this beautiful village, nestled in the mountains outside of Mexico City, that we named ourselves and hope to share some of its beauty with you.

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## Temple School: Ministry of the Priest

*Shawnee Drive Congregation*

**9 am – 5 pm Saturday, December 14**

Lunch is provided. A zoom link will be sent to those who need to attend online. To register, please contact Dawn (816.718.8307) or Greg Bassett (816.210.4943) or email [mmc\\_youth@midlandsmc.org](mailto:mmc_youth@midlandsmc.org). Please specify if you will attend in person or virtually. Attendees need to purchase their class materials from Herald House: [bit.ly/PriestBook](http://bit.ly/PriestBook)

## Preaching in the Age of Ted Talks

*Joey Williams*

**8:45 am – 2:45 pm**

**Saturday, January 25 @ Olathe  
or Saturday, February 1 @ Colonial Hills**

Midlands and Central Mission Centers will offer the same session twice, so choose the date that is convenient for you. A light meal will be provided. Register by January 18: [bit.ly/preachingwithjoey](http://bit.ly/preachingwithjoey)

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## World Conference 2025

DELEGATES: World Conference will be held **May 30 – June 6, 2025**, in Independence, MO. Midlands is seeking **two more delegates** plus alternates. To submit an application: [bit.ly/WC2025delegate](http://bit.ly/WC2025delegate).

LEGISLATION: Fourteen pieces of legislation have been submitted by mission centers and World Church Standing Teams for this gathering.

- View the legislation: [bit.ly/WC25Legislation](http://bit.ly/WC25Legislation)
- View the background and support statements: [bit.ly/WC25LegSupport](http://bit.ly/WC25LegSupport)
- MMC's unique **proposed resolution prioritization survey** is **open until Dec 14** to everyone, not just delegates: [bit.ly/WC25Priority](http://bit.ly/WC25Priority)

ZOOM SUPPORT: Volunteers are needed to support remote legislative sites. Multiple roles for non-delegates are available based on schedule, interest, and skills. Contact Brad Bryant at 309.706.6179 or [BBryant@CofChrist.org](mailto:BBryant@CofChrist.org).