

*Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship*

An Unexpected Hour



*"Weep and Rejoice!"*

*December 26, 2010*



**Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 26, 2010**

*In our time, sorrow and longing are avoided or denied, especially in the holiday season. God calls us to name our joy and our pain, and frees us to praise God while lamenting the suffering of God's people.*

**Gathering**

Prelude

Welcome & Centering Words

Bernie, Worship Leader

Call to Worship

Leader: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,

**People: *because of the abundance of God's steadfast love.***

Leader: God said, "Out of Egypt I called my son,"  
in joy and in pain, God is bringing us to freedom.

**People: *The Christ child is born,  
and still Rachel weeps for her children,  
refusing to be comforted.***

Leader: Jesus shares our skin:  
he lives with the lonely and bereaved.

**All: *It is no messenger or angel,  
but God's presence that saves us.***

Chimes and Silence

\*Gathering Hymn

*Hymnal: A Worship Book #201*

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Lighting of the Community Candle

**All: *We light these flames to honor our past. We light these flames to endorse our present as a community. We light these flames to symbolize our future.***

Intercessory Prayer

Anita

Centering Hymn

*Hymnal: A Worship Book #208*

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

**Hearing God's Word**

Old Testament Scripture

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

\*Song of Assurance

*Hymnal: A Worship Book #189*

*“To Us a Child of Hope Is Born”*

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer (use *trespasses*)

New Testament Scripture

*John 1:1-14*

Sermon

Anita

*“It Was His Presence”*

Chimes and Silence

***Responding to God’s Word***

Offering Prayer

Anita

Offering

Offertory Hymn

*Sing the Journey #60*

*“Lord of All Good”*

***Prayer of Confession*** (unison)

*God of lavish gifts and freeing love,*

*it is hard to hold suffering and celebration together.*

*We are grateful for Jesus’ birth,*

*and we long to see wrong made right.*

*Free us from the need for tidy packages of faith,*

*and loosen our grip on the fears and griefs that bind us.*

*Strengthen our arms to hold this new child*

*and to offer him a home among us. Amen.*

***Words of Assurance***

***Communion***

Hymn of Preparation

*Sing the Journey #87*

*“Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”*

Call to Communion

Anita

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

***Sending***

\*Words of Blessing  
\*Hymn of Sending

*“Oh, How Joyfully”*

*Hymnal: A Worship Book #209*

Postlude