

From our Churches

Author: Janeen Bertsche Johnson

Church: AMBS

This resource is part of a larger **From Our Churches** archives available as an inspirational resource to teachers, ministers and others of Mennonite Church Canada. Posted by permission of the author. Permission to reproduce and distribute is granted.

Advent Candlelight Reading

Leader: In the beginning was the Word. The Word was light for all things which were made through the Word. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it, and never will.

Women: This true light that enlightened every person came into the world. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Men: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. We are those people. We have been called out of the darkness of our world. We have seen the light, and we have become light.

All: Therefore, we must walk as children of the light. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. Living in the light means loving our brothers and sisters. It means loving the world, setting our light on a hill for all the nations to see. Living in the light means sharing our light with everyone, so that all people will know God.

Women: We live in a world of darkness, but as children of light we offer God's everlasting light to the world.

All: We live in the darkness of fear and doubt;

Men: We offer the light of hope and faith.

All: We live in the darkness of injustice and oppression;

Women: We offer the light of justice and human dignity.

All: We live in the darkness of hatred and warfare;

Men: We offer the light of love and peace.

All: We live in the darkness of alienation and loneliness;

Women: We offer the light of fellowship and community.

All: We live in the darkness of greed and indifference;

Men: We offer the light of sharing and caring.

All: During this Advent season, we covenant together to BE the light of the world—not just to profess it, but to LIVE it. We long for the day when the whole world will live in the light of the knowledge of God. Until that time, we offer ourselves as lights: sometimes dim and flickering but always fuelled by love. Let us celebrate this community, this church, where we light candles in the darkness, where we believe in hope.