

## The comforting face of God

**Focus:** Amidst the ruins of our cities and countryside, God offers liberation and restoration. We reflect God's face as we become builders and planters of righteousness.

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### GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE AS CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

**Early Singing**      WB 202 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy  
WB 209 Oh, how joyfully  
WB 213 Let all together praise our God

#### Lighting of Advent Candles

#### Call to Worship:

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

**People: You, me, us—the Spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news.**

Leader: We bring good news to the oppressed and heartbroken.

**People: We bring good news to ruined cities and scarred countrysides.**

Leader: We bring good news to the weak and poor.

**People: We bring good news to those who have plenty and yet are empty.**

Leader: Let the Spirit of the Lord be upon us so seeds of tears can grow into harvests of joy.

*All: Let the Spirit of our God be upon us to restore the face of the earth.*

#### Opening Prayer

**Gathering Song**      WB184 Hark! The glad sound!

#### Prayer of Confession

**Song of Praise**      WB186 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!

### HEARING GOD

**Scripture reading**      Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126

#### Children's Time

**Scripture reading**      1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Message**      Restoring Creation: The Restoring Face of God  
-Roland Kuhl

**Response Song**      WB303 Come gracious Spirit

### MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST-LIKE COMPASSION

#### Sharing and Prayers of the Congregation

See insert

**Ministry focus**      From Quarry to Classroom:  
Global Family in Nepal

#### Offering

### SENT OUT BY GOD IN CHRIST-LED COURAGE

**Song of Sending**      H 427 You shall go out with joy

#### Benediction

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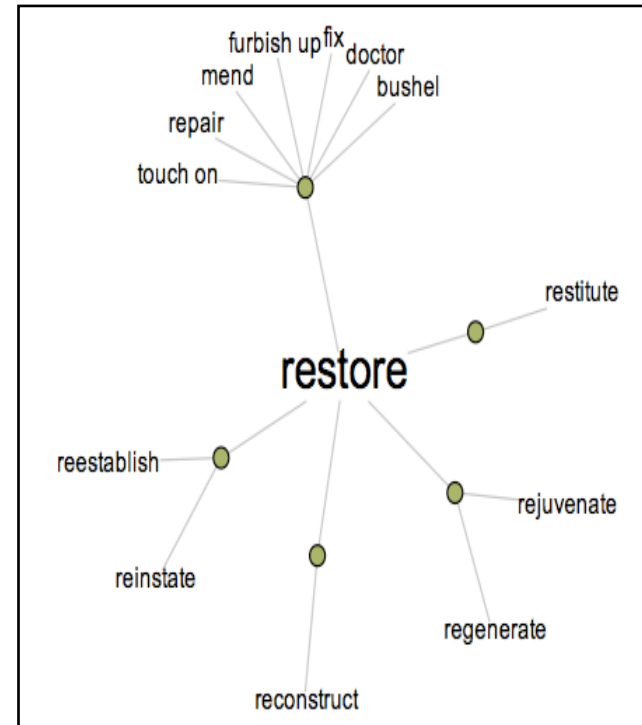
**NORTH SUBURBAN MENNONITE CHURCH**

*“As a living body of Jesus Christ,  
our vision at North Suburban  
is to be a Christ-centered community,  
embodying Christ-like compassion,  
living with Christ-led courage.”*

<b>2009 Advent Series ‘Let your face shine’</b>	
Nov 29	The hidden face of God
Dec 6	The comforting face of God
Dec 13	The restoring face of God
Dec 20	The indwelling face of God – communion & potluck
Dec 27	The embracing face of God
Jan 3	Epiphany: The welcoming face of God

NEED TO BE IN TOUCH DURING THE WEEK?  
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**NORTH SUBURBAN  
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**Sunday, December 13, 2009  
Third Sunday of Advent**