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**April 14, 2024**

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## **I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

**Prelude** "Easter Messiah" – Handel/arr. Lorenz

**Choral Call to Worship** "Holy, Holy, Holy" – arr. Sjolund

**Call to Worship** (*from Psalm 40:1-5*)

**Leader:** I waited patiently for the LORD, and he turned to me and heard my cry.

**People:** **He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

**Leader:** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**People:** **Many will see with reverence, and put their trust in the LORD.**

**Leader:** Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

**People:** **You have multiplied your wondrous deeds, O LORD my God, and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Welcome & Greeting One Another**

**Opening Hymn** "Lift Your Glad Voices" – HWB #275

**Confession and Reconciliation** (*from Psalm 40: 6-17*)

**Leader:** O LORD, do not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

**People:** **My iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me. For evils have encompassed me beyond number. I am poor and needy, but take thought for me still, O Lord! You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me -- O LORD, make haste to help me!**

**Leader:** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!" behold, I have not restrained my lips, O LORD.

**People:** **I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart, but I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I will share the glad news of redemption!**

## **II. HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Anthem** "Thy Word" – M. W. Smith & A. Grant

**Children's Time**

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 43:8-12; I John 5:1-5; John 20:24-31

**Sermon** "Seeing and Believing"

**Hymn of Response** "We Walk by Faith" – HWB #570

## **III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST**

**Announcements & Offerings**

- Today's **Worship offering:** Camper Scholarships
- Today's **Sunday school offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Children's Offering:** Heifer International

**Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

## **IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Closing Hymn** "My Faith Looks up to Thee" – HWB #565

**Benediction**

The victory that overcomes the world is faith, faith in Jesus the risen Son of God! Walk by that faith, and have life. Peace be with you!

**Postlude** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" - Troutman

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**Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Worship Leader:** Jeri Butkus; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist), Men's Choir; **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Children's Time:** Jeri Butkus; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

## **THE CHURCH AT WORK**

### **TODAY**

**We welcome all** who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service. There are small cups with lids for children to use.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Wed. (17<sup>th</sup>), 7:00 p.m.** – Handbells

**Sat. (20<sup>th</sup>), 9:00 a.m.** – Mission & Service Workday

## **NEXT SUNDAY, April 21**

**Speaker:** Pastor Bob; **Worship Leader:** Stewart Hofer; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist), Handbells; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

**Worship Offering:** Mennonite Central Committee

**Sunday school Offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference

**Children's Offering:** Heifer International

## **SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES**

**If you haven't handed in** your "Learning to Know Each Other Better" form yet, please do so today. More forms are on the narthex table if you don't have one.

**Pastor Spencer & Renee** will be leaving Friday, April 19 to attend the CPMC Leadership Retreat in Schuyler, NE. They will return home Sunday, April 21.

**Conference Delegates needed** for Central Plains Conference Annual Meeting taking place in Wayland, IA at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church on June 20-23. Our church is allowed to take 7 delegates plus our pastor. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please contact Vernetta by May 1.

**The Mission and Service Team will be** having a work day on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m.-noon. We will be cutting fabric for kit bags and quilt blocks, sewing kit bags and possibly tying some comforters. Please bring your own supplies for cutting and sewing. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Schmeichel (648-3430). If you plan to work past noon, please bring a sack lunch.

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace hosted** the first of what are hoped to be 5 informational sessions about Israel-Palestine. The first was this past Sunday, April 7 from 2-4 pm. It was called "Challenging the Myth of the Israel-Palestine Narrative: A Community Conversation."

If you were not able to attend, you can watch the recording online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHUn2yqMaaM>

**May 26-31: Restorative Justice Peace Camp for young adults (Chicago, Illinois)** -

This peace camp will dive into creative ways to implement justice in local communities. Learning from experienced restorative justice practitioners in Chicago, we will witness incredible ways that transformation is possible through restorative justice. Register today! [mcc.org/events/restorative-justice-peace-camp](http://mcc.org/events/restorative-justice-peace-camp)

**Since January of 1993**, Dean Sikes has been on the road, ministering words of hope in high schools across America and in nations of the world. To date, he's spoken at over 4,000 events, sharing the message of hope with millions of teenagers. The week of April 15-19 Dean will be in our area. He will speak at Freeman Academy and at the Emery High School. And he will speak to our youth group here in Freeman. This is such a significant event that we want to extend the invitation to your young people. We will meet at Fellowship Harvest Church, on Wed. Apr.17, at 7:00 p.m. The evening will include a short time of fun, a time of singing, and then the message from Dean. We plan to be done by 8:30 p.m. We usually provide some sort of snack. It would help us if you could let me know, by Monday the 15th, how many of your teens plan on coming. We appreciate your help with this.

To read more about Dean Sikes and YouMatter Ministries go to: <https://deansikes.net/>

Blessings, Stephen Roussos

**The Bethany Food Pantry serves** the needy of Freeman, Menno, and Olivet. We are looking for volunteers to help for a couple of hours a month, on the first or third Friday. Below are the time slots where help is needed. Please contact Liza Larson, (605)660-0010 or Debra Schmeichel (605)648-3430 if you have questions.

**First Friday – 10:30 – 12:30** – shelving, sorting boxes, trimming boxes, recycling  
**12:45 – 5:15** – assisting shoppers, recycling, locking up

**Third Friday – 10:30 – 12:30** – shelving, sorting boxes, trimming boxes, recycling  
**12:45 – 5:15** – assisting shoppers, recycling, locking up

**On Saturday, April 27**, The Ortmen Piano Duo, consisting of Mory Ortman and Jordan Ortman, will perform a two-piano concert at 7:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. This is a rare opportunity for local music lovers to hear two grand pianos being played together - by two of Freeman's native sons, who are now professional musicians in New York City and Denver, respectively. No admission will be charged, but a freewill offering for Freeman Academy's Cultivate 120 campaign will be taken. A dessert reception will follow the concert. Plan to join us for this special treat!

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship  
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553  
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com  
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331