



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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February 22, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

The Glory of These Forty Days - Powell
My Jesus I Love Thee – Bish

Call to Worship (Isaiah 43:14-21)

This is what the LORD says, your Protector, the Holy One of Israel:

“For your sake I send to you to exile, fugitives in Babylon, turning joyful shouts to songs of grief. I am the LORD, your Holy One, your King who created you, the one who made a road through the sea, a pathway through the surging waters, the one who destroyed chariots and horses, who threw down a mighty army. Don’t dwell on these former events, for see, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? I will make a road in the wilderness and paths in the wastelands. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and ostriches, because I put water in the wilderness and streams in the wastelands, to quench the thirst of my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself, so they might praise me.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

O God, How We Have Wandered – STS #58

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace (from Isaiah 43:22-44:8)

This is what the LORD, Israel’s king, says, your Protector, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies: “I am the first and I am the last, there is no God but me. Who is like me? Let them announce it and explain it to me—let them announce the future! You did not call for me, O Jacob; you did not long for me, O Israel. You did not bring me lambs for your burnt offerings; you did not honor me with your sacrifices. I did not burden you with offerings; I did not make you weary by demanding incense.

Yet you burdened me with your sins; you made me weary with your evil deeds.

We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned and rebelled against you. We have resisted your rule in our lives and world, by our thoughts and deeds. Do not hand us over to destruction, we pray, but accept our humble repentance and forgive us.

This is what the LORD, the one who made you, says— the one who formed you in the womb and helps you: I alone am God – there is no other sheltering rock. Don’t be afraid!

Listen, Jacob my servant, my chosen: Fear not, my servant; you belong to the Lord. I am the one who blots out your rebellious deeds for my sake; your sins I do not remember. I will pour water on the parched ground and cause streams to flow on the dry land. I will pour my Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your children. They will sprout up like a tree in the grass, like poplars beside channels of water.

Anthem

Lenten Meditation – Althouse

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Numbers 14:11-38 (ESV); Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV)
Matthew 10:32-11:1 (NIV)

Sermon

Path Through the Wilderness

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST’S BODY

Offertory Doxology – HWB 119A

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** First Fruits Garden
- **Children’s Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of the Bread and Cup from the Lord’s Table

IV. RETURNING TO GOD’S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

Lead On, O Cloud – HWB #419

Benediction

STJ # 136

Postlude

Original Antiphon – Uehlein

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Renee Bradford; **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Men’s Choir (special music), Deb Schmeichel (accompanist); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

Sunday, February 22, 4:00 p.m., Lenten Study Series - Caregiving for Loved Ones with Dementia, Pastor Bob Engbrecht & Chaplain Betty Janke

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Ladies Ensemble

Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. – Mission & Service Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY, March 1, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brent Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Chancel Choir (special music); Linda Schrag (accompanist); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class; **Scriptures:** Leviticus 9:1-24, Isaiah 30:1-24, Hebrews 4:14-5:10, Matthew 16:13-28

Worship Offering: AMBS/EMS – our denomination seminaries

Sunday School Offering: South Church Sunday School

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

The 2026 Lenten Study Series on "Aspects of End of Life" will feature five presentations and discussions about facing and preparing for the end of this mortal life with grace and care. All will be in the South Church Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 4:00 pm.

Feb. 22 - Caregiving for Loved Ones with Dementia, Pastor Bob Engbrecht & Chaplain Betty Janke

Mar. 1 - Practicing Faith in Coping with Dementia, Chaplain Betty Janke & Chaplain Eric Deckert

Mar. 8 -Being Present with the Dying, Lavonne Brockmueller

Mar. 15 - Planning Your Funeral, Nathan Walter & Pastor Spencer

Mar. 22 - Advance Directives on Care at the End of Life, Lindsey Unruh

"Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

Ryan Brockmueller will cover household treasurer duties in February during Lee's absence. He will be monitoring Lee's mailbox so you may continue to put bills and donations there or give them directly to Ryan. Either way will work.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

On Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 7:00 pm, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church (North Church) will host a free community concert featuring the world premiere of a new arrangement of Antonio Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. This innovative version, created by internationally recognized cellist and pedagogue Emilio Colón, reimagines the iconic work for solo cello, cello quartet, double bass, and harpsichord. The concert is free and open to the public."

Freeman Academy has an immediate need for volunteers in various departments on campus. We are calling on alumni and friends to help in any of the departments listed below.

Building and Grounds, including preparation for Schmeckfest

Front Office: phone coverage, computer and other tasks

Dorm: weekend staff coverage, meals, and transportation

For these needs, contact Brice Kauffman or Charity Ortman in the school office at (605) 925-4237.

MCC Central States annual meeting – You are invited to the MCC Central States annual meeting on Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117.

Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will probably be held in the new worship center so you can see the progress being made. A light lunch will follow. RSVP's are appreciated.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's annual meeting will be held on March 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Hopefield Mennonite Church, 1823 Aztec Lane, Moundridge. Glen Ediger, a Bethel College graduate, will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about *"Mennonites, Farming, Wheat and Threshing Stones"* The entertainment will be provided by Sam Shilts. If you did not get a chance to visit Hopefield Mennonite Church at our Schweitzer and Friends celebration in 2024, now would be a good time. The members and pastor are very welcoming. It would also be a great way to see the remodeled church. There is no need to rsvp. Of course, poppyseed rolls will be served after the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Schmeckfest sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall; please sign up to bring food and also to work one or more shifts at the Schmeckfest meal on April 10 & 11, 2026. Questions? See Alison Neufeld or Jenelle Miller.

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

THE COMMUNION OF THANKSGIVING

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We come in grateful celebration of Jesus' cross and resurrection, giving from our receiving, inviting as we have been invited, serving as we are served, renewing our bond to the narrow way of Jesus. There is room at his table for all who follow Jesus in God's covenant of grace and obedience.

The Lord is God, compassionate and gracious, overflowing in loving mercy and steadfast kindness.

Blessed be God, now and forever!

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hills are now united on this table in bread and drink, so Lord, may we be made a true community of your Spirit as your Body on earth, and may your whole people soon be gathered together from across the earth in your Kingdom of holy peace.

Come, Lord Jesus! To you be glory forever!

Let us raise our hearts, and give thanks to the Lord our God.

We raise up our thanks and praise to the Lord, because he is good; his love is eternal.

Truly, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to offer our praise, worship, and thanksgiving to you, Almighty and Ever-living God. You created all things out of loving grace to reflect your glory, you sent redemption from slavery and sin when we rejected your grace, you sustained us with heavenly manna in the wilderness, and you call us into obedient love through your law, prophets, and apostles. So we sing with saints and angels,

Blessed be the Lord God, holy and mighty!

For your Son Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer; for his call to faith and peace; for his nourishing us with living bread; for his death and resurrection to bring forgiveness while we were your enemies killing him; for life in his Spirit, free from sin and death; for our communion with him in his Body, and the promise of his return in your full kingdom.

Blessed are you, Creator Spirit, who makes all things new!

Come, Spirit of Christ, and fulfill the promise of your kingdom among us. For on the night that he was betrayed, during supper, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." So in praise and thanksgiving, we offer to you ourselves and all these gifts, that we may be a holy and living sacrifice, dedicated to your service, in union with Christ's saving self-offering for us and the whole world.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship and thank you, O Lord our God.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this communion, on us gathered here and on these gifts, that the sharing of this bread and cup may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify and fill us with your true presence, that in all our lives we may be for the world the Body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. As we share your presence anew at this table of your giving, let us share your presence with the world in the giving of our lives and selves, in your service for all people. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one in fellowship with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until we feast together at your heavenly banquet with all your saints, when all will be filled and satisfied. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

AMEN.