



**Salem
Mennonite
Church**

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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LENT THREE – March 15, 2020 - SERVICE CANCELLED

Lord, Show Us What's Next

I. GATHERED IN JESUS' NAME

Prelude

“Wondrous Love” – Southern Harmony/Owens
“Adagio” – Albinoni/Wolff

Invocation Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” blue HWB #582

Welcome & Assurance

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Confession of Our Sin

Lenten Hymn

“My Song is Love Unknown” – Childs

Children's Focus

Offering

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
“Ah, Dearest Jesus” – Held

II. RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Hearing Scripture

John 3:1-21

Pastoral Reflection

"Behold, I do a new thing"

III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S LIGHT

Hymn of Response

"Open My Eyes/Abre Mis Ojos" purple SS #65

Congregational Prayers & Sharing

- ❖ We give God thanks for various steps of health restoration seen this week: a **clean CT scan for Linda Graber**, a **successful gallbladder surgery for Paul Balzer**, services of remembrance with **Melvin Schmeichel's family**; may the congregation's faithful prayers endure onward, particularly as other members continue to await signs of healing—or even face the reality that healing will not be coming for them—that we may *"learn the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry..."* (Philippians 4:12)
- ❖ We pray for the Holy Spirit's **encouragement for members restricted in seeing their loved ones** while quarantined at local nursing homes; may the Spirit move us to reach out with other expressions of love and care during these times of separation that we, *"therefore, encourage one another and build each other up."* (1 Thess. 5:11)
- ❖ We pray for **Christ's calm for our Covid-19 fears, and protection for the most vulnerable** among us, and that our community and leaders be free from panic, yet wise and prudent in care; as we each follow 'best practices,' may we also *"abide in the shelter of the Most High and say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'"* (Psalm 91:1-2)

IV. SENT WITH NEW BIRTH IN THE SPIRIT

Sending Song

"New Earth, Heavens New" blue HWB #299

Benediction

Postlude

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" – J.S. Bach

Greeters: Peggy Waltner & Chris Eisenbeis; **Musicians:** Sharon Waltner (organ), Barb Yoder (piano), Ladies' Ensemble; **Worship Leader:** Cheryle Gering; **Speaker:** Pastor Nick; **Children's Story:** Jeri Butkus **Nursery:** Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Marrieds

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Adult S.S. Offering Today
Offering Next Sunday
Children's S.S. Offering

Members in Mission
Heritage Hall Archives
Oyate Concern School

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who have come to worship with us this morning! Please take time to greet others, invite them to Sunday school, and grab some coffee.

THIS WEEK

Wed. (18th), 6:30 p.m. – Handbells
7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir
8:30 p.m. – Men's Choir

NEXT SUNDAY, March 22

Speaker: Pastor Nick; **Worship Leader:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organ), Chancel Choir; **Greeters:** Chris & Carol Eisenbeis; **Offering:** Oyate Concern School; **Children's Story:** Bob Wollmann; **Nursery:** Amy Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Marrieds #10

COMING EVENTS

April 1 – Youth Supper & Bible Study
April 7 – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

The Trustees are looking for several individuals who would be interested in the church's janitorial positions. Please contact one of the Trustees (Craig M., Myles M., Don W., Jeffrey P., Duane R., Rodney W.) if you have any questions or are interested in this paid position. In addition, if anyone would like to submit a lawn mowing bid for this year, please talk to Craig Miller.

A thank you note from the Yankton Banquet is posted on the bulletin board.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Rural Revival will meet March 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Freeman Public Library, downtown Freeman. All are welcome to attend. The education topic for this month will be cold climate grape growing by David Graber

Screening for incoming kindergarten students will be held March 31 at 3:45-4:45 pm in Music Hall at Freeman Academy. Parents can register their children at FreemanAcademy.org. Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2020. Class size is limited to 12 students with one teacher. For more information contact lallison@FreemanAcademy.org or 605.925.4237 extension 225.








Voices of Conscience premiered at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City during the “Remembering Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance and Civil Liberties in World War I through Today” Symposium, October 19-22, 2017. This traveling exhibit created by the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, KS, remembers the witness of peace-minded people against the First World War 1914-1918. After touring across North America, the exhibit will be open to the public at the historic Bethel Mennonite Church on the campus of Heritage Hall Museum & Archives in Freeman from March 20 through April 26. A museum admission fee of \$8.00 adults/\$4.00 students (gr. 1-12) permits entrance to the exhibit and all museum property.

SCHMECKFEST NOTES

Official Statement regarding Schmeckfest 2020: POSTPONED Official Schmeckfest Statement from Freeman Academy & Schmeckfest Auxiliary Executive Board. The Schmeckfest Auxiliary Executive Board, Freeman Academy Board of Directors, and Administration have postponed Schmeckfest 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Tentative dates have been discussed and will be announced as we hear official updates regarding COVID-19. This has been a difficult decision; however we cannot risk the safety of our students, faculty, volunteers, community and Schmeckfest visitors. We also feel a personal responsibility to help stop the spread of this contagious virus. We have been strongly encouraged to take preventative measures, not just for ourselves, but for all those who enter our campus, and especially those with weakened immune systems. Schmeckfest musical and meal tickets will be transferable to a rescheduled date in 2020. Pre-orders for items, such as Schmeckfest sausage, can still be placed and are appreciated. This has been Freeman Academy’s largest fundraiser for over 60 years. Details can be found at Schmeckfest.com. Updates will be available on FreemanAcademy.org, Schmeckfest.com and official Facebook pages for Freeman Academy and Schmeckfest, as more information follows in the coming days and weeks. Contact Nathan Epp at nepp@freemanacademy.org or Meranda Van Ningen, Development Director / Schmeckfest Coordinator at mvanningen@freemanacademy.org. Nathan Epp Head of School Freeman Academy Release Date: March 13, 2020

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship
Office Hours – Wednesday – Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Nick Stoddard, Pastor (nick.southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-7106/940-7212
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

Unified prayers in a time of global health anxiety – Our global fellowship, Mennonite World Conference (MWC), has called all Anabaptist and Mennonite congregations around the world to unite in prayer: *“The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:5b-7)

-  *We pray for people in the U.S and around the world impacted by coronavirus. We pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been quarantined and are feeling alone.*
-  *We pray for healing for those who are sick.*
-  *We pray for safety, strength and compassion for medical workers who may be overwhelmed caring for those who are battling various illnesses, and workers who are exposed to greater risks.*
-  *We pray that our public officials act with compassion and wisdom as they work to contain the virus.*
-  *We pray for those without access to health care, and for those who don't know how they will make it if they get sick and can't go to work.*
-  *We pray that your peace will guard our hearts and minds so that we are not overcome by anxiety and fear.*
-  *God, inspire in us ways to show your love to one another and to ourselves. Guide our hearts and our actions to greater care, kindness and generosity in the midst of these fears and uncertainties. Amen.*

Further Church Health Tips – In addition to Mennonite World Conference's prayers, Mennonite Church USA also reminds our congregations of some simple steps for protecting good health in our church gatherings:

- Avoid hugs and handshakes (but continue to warmly greet one another in Christ, just do so with a wave, nod or bow!),
- Wash your hands (20+ seconds, before and after worship and S.S.),
- Cover your cough (into crook of your elbow, not just your hand),
- Be calm & full of faith: discourage panic & fear (“The Lord is near...and the peace of God will guard your hearts & minds!” – *Philippians 4*),
- Don't spread false information (gossip is never healthy, especially now)
- Seek information *only* from reliable sources such as the CDC and World Health Organization (PLEASE: Your Facebook feeds or political talk shows are NOT often the most reliable health or news info)

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God *unless* they are born again.”

⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can *enter* the kingdom of God *unless* they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but [the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You [all] must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

