



**Salem
Mennonite
Church**

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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March 22, 2020 (service in building cancelled – Covid-19)
South Church Worship on Zoom

9:15-9:30 Gathering

Welcome & Instructions

Assurances from Scripture – Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a **VERY present** help in trouble.

²Therefore **WE WILL NOT FEAR** though the earth should change,
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;**
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷**The LORD of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
see what desolations are on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, and know that I am God!**
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth!”

¹¹**The LORD of hosts is with us;**
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

20 Prayers for Covid-19 – from Jen Pollock Michel

Music for Listening — Chancel's "Do Not Be Afraid" by Philip Stopford & Gerard Markland

Hear this song as a reminder of God's assurance that He is with us in these uncertain times: *'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are mine...When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes... Do not be afraid. You are mine, oh my child.'*

Greeting One Another

This time of **physical** distancing doesn't have to be a time of **social** or **spiritual** distance. It is not clear how long this physical distancing will last, or how total it needs to be. For now, we take it seriously without assuming it will last forever.

The question for South Church is, "In this time when there is more need than ever to be supportive of one another and in God's presence, **how do we go deeper and closer in our care for one another**, even as public health requires that we stay physically distant?"

Our first response is that we are going to **still try to meet together for worship**, albeit through our screens! That's why you're here this morning. God's presence is not blocked by distance or by our computer screens. We can expect that **God is still able to show up in our midst even when** we have gathered from remote places!

Call to Worship (responsive) → Psalm 121

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.**

Making Music Together

When Peace Like a River HWB#336
Open My Eyes/Abre Mis Ojos SS #65

Children's Story

Scripture

John 3

Pastoral Meditation

Congregational Sharing & Prayers

Philippians 4:6-7

Fittingly, this is a portion of South Church's 2020 theme passage:

"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."

Announcements

Offering & Oyate School Ministry Update

Benediction

Sending Song – "God Be With You"