



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave
Freeman, SD 57029-5840

(605) 925-4553
southchurch@goldenwest.net
southchurchsd.org

May 12, 2024, Mother's Day

I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

"For the Beauty of the Earth" – arr. Linker
"Ode to Joy" – Beethoven/arr. Wilson

Call to Worship (*Psalm 126*)

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

**People: The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad!
Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the desert!**

Leader: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

**People: One who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing sheaves of
harvest!**

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Opening Hymn

"Bringing in the Sheaves"— insert

Confession & Reconciliation (*adapted from Isaiah 26:16-19*)

Leader: O LORD, in distress we seek you; we pour out whispered
prayers when your discipline is upon us.

**People: We struggle to make new life, like a pregnant mother who
writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is near to giving
birth, so were we because of you, O LORD. We are pregnant,
we writhe, but of ourselves we give birth only to wind. Of
ourselves, we accomplish no salvation in the earth, and the
powers of the world have not fallen. O Lord, forgive us our
self-seeking and pride, and of your own power give us
birth to new life.**

Leader: Hear the promise of God: Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your morning is dewed with light, and the earth will give birth to her dead.

II. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Special Music

Scripture Reading I John 1:1-2:11; John 16:19-33

Sermon "Birth of Joy"

Hymn of Response "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" – HWB #71

III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

Announcements & Offerings

- Today's **Worship offering**: General Fund
- Today's **Sunday school offering**: Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety
- **Children's Offering**: Heifer International

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Closing Hymn "You Shall go Out With Joy" – HWB #427

Benediction

Christ has overcome the world and the grave. The true light shines and dispels the present darkness. Go in peace and let your joy be full!

Postlude "Hail the Day that sees Him Rise" (MH #185)/arr. Mansfield

Greeters: Brad & Kris Carlson; **Worship Leader:** Dennis Ries; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist), Sunday School Children; **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Coffee:** Class #18

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshiping 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

Mon. (13th), 7:30 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY, May 19, Pentecost Sunday

Communion will be observed during the worship service.

Speaker: Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Norm Kaufman; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Coffee:** Class #18

Worship Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

Sunday school Offering: Heritage Hall Museum & Archives

Children's Offering: Heifer International

Congregational Conversation Hour and Potluck: For our fellowship meal, we'll be ushering in summer with a burger feed! Sunday School Class #10 will be sponsoring burgers grilled by Brad Carlson. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish - such as chips, salad, relishes, or fruit - or finger-food desserts such as cookies, bars or cupcakes. You may also bring a favorite burger topping to share if you wish - the classics of ketchup, mustard, relish and cheese will be provided! Paper products, ice water and lemonade will be provided as well. Plan to join us!

COMING EVENTS

May 19 – Congregational Conversation & Potluck

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Worship music scheduling underway: The music team at South Church is now scheduling worship music for the summer months from June through early October. This is the time to offer your musical talents and share your gifts with the congregation. It is also an opportunity to have family or friends visiting here to bring music and be a part of our worship service. If you are willing to provide a solo, duet or organize a small group, either vocal or instrumental, please contact Kathy Kleinsasser or any of the music team members.

Young people between ages 15 and 20: Are you interested in what is going on in the church beyond your congregation? Did you know that youth are invited to participate in Central Plains Mennonite Conference's Annual Meeting delegate sessions? Consider coming to Wayland, IA, June 20-23 to participate in worship, church business and workshops. Ask your pastor or council chair about this opportunity!

It is time to renew our group subscription to Anabaptist World. The publication would like the group recipient list updated by June 1st as that is when they will invoice us for the next year. If you would like to continue receiving Anabaptist World or would like to be added to the list please contact Lee Brockmueller as soon as you can. Also, let him know of any address changes. The cost remains at \$39 per subscription.

The general fund is not as robust as it once was. Please prayerfully consider this when our next general fund offering comes up on May 12th and subsequent general fund offerings. Thank you, Trustees

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year the joint North and South Church VBS will be held at the North Church on June 3-7 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. We are looking for classroom teachers as well as volunteers to help with snacks, music, rec, and drama. If you are interested and willing to help in any capacity, please talk to Bailey Carlson or Libby Miller. There are registration forms and a parent letter in the narthex.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

The Et Cetera Shoppe is exploring the possibility of starting a furniture pick-up service. Furniture is one of the things that many of our customers need most – and, larger items help us to raise more money for relief! We are seeking strong volunteers, and potential delivery pickup trucks, to help us make this happen. If you'd be willing to help us bring this idea to life, PLEASE reach out to us at the shop to let us know (925-7098). We do not envision this being much of a time commitment, and pick-ups would be scheduled when it works for YOU. Thank you!

The annual Freeman Regional Hospital Auxiliary fund drive is during the month of May. In each mail box is a pamphlet explaining our efforts. You can donate online (scan the QR code) or make checks out to FRHS Auxiliary. I am also available to deliver your checks. Donations are greatly appreciated. Dawn Stahl

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

Bringing in the Sheaves

1 Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain:

Bringing in the sheaves,
Bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves;
Bringing in the sheaves,
Bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

2 Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. [Refrain]

3 Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves. [Refrain]

Prayer List for May 2024

We talked about Psalm 80:4 that has the question: *“Oh, Lord God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?”* This question was in the responsive reading for April 28. While we were familiar with prophetic warnings about worship in general being words only, this feeling that God is frustrated with how we pray struck us. We offer the following prayer list with the awareness that these are seeds for your own prayers. We are wondering how the congregation might have many small groups praying for and with the congregation and for the community—not just us on Tuesday or Wednesday nights once a month. We find praying with one another edifying.

Thanksgiving for:

- timely and generous rains
- planting season in fields, gardens, yards
- John Bradford being accepted into school
- the encouragers in the congregation
- talents that enrich our community
- Pastor Spencer’s ministry among us
- the pastor and spouse retreat for Central Plains leaders
- sensitivity to a hurting world

Requests:

- students who are graduating and thinking about their futures
- Bible School in early June
- Central Plains Conference annual meeting and the delegates going from our congregation
- stamina and strength for families losing shelter in tornadoes
- the Gaza situation: hostages, homelessness, starvation, political efforts to end the war; student protests on campuses
- awareness of God’s presence for grieving families
- less hostile and more understanding of political issues
- the need for humility when communicating about differences

--submitted by Derrold and Peggy Waltner, Gregg Waltner, Duane Ries, Spencer Bradford, and Lois JP.

Mother's Day for Peace

In the United States, Mother's Day was originally suggested by poet and abolitionist activist Julia Ward Howe. In 1870, after witnessing the carnage of the American Civil War and the start of the Franco-Prussian War, she wrote the original Mother's Day Proclamation calling upon the women of the world to unite for peace. This "Mother's Day Proclamation" would plant the seed for what would eventually become a national holiday.

After writing the proclamation, Howe had it translated into many languages and spent the next two years of her life distributing it and speaking to women leaders all over the world for this cause. In her book *Reminiscences*, Howe wrote, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?" Her activity on this proclamation initiated annual "Mother's Day" gatherings in Boston, Massachusetts and elsewhere.

In 1907, thirty-seven years after the proclamation was written, women's rights activist Anna Jarvis began campaigning for the establishment of a nationally observed Mother's Day holiday. Her mother, an Appalachian homemaker, had worked to develop better sanitary conditions for both sides in the Civil War, and to reconcile Union and Confederate neighbors after the war. Jarvis sought to honor her mother's work and vision, and in 1914, four years after Howe's death, President Woodrow Wilson declared Mother's Day as a national holiday on the second Sunday of May.

This Mother's Day, pray for mothers in wartorn parts of the world – Ukraine, Gaza and Israel, Niger, Ethiopia, and Haiti.

A Mother's Day Proclamation

Julia Ward Howe, 1870

Arise then...women of this day!

Arise, all women who have hearts!

Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!

Say firmly:

"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,

Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,

For caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn

All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We, the women of one country,

Will be too tender of those of another country

To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with

Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor,

Nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil

At the summons of war,

Let women now leave all that may be left of home

For a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means

Whereby the great human family can live in peace...

Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,

But of God -

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask

That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,

May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient

And the earliest period consistent with its objects,

To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,

The amicable settlement of international questions,

The great and general interests of peace.