



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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July 27, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

"Concerto in D Minor" – Bach
"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" – arr. Hustad

Call to Worship

STJ #119

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" – HWB #327

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace (adapted from Amos 5:6-17)

Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire against your house, and devour the land with none to quench it. O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the ground! God who made the stars, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, who makes destruction flash forth against the strong -- the LORD is his name. The LORD God of hosts says, "In all the squares there shall be wailing, and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmers to mourning and in all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through your midst and I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins."

O Lord, God of hosts: We confess to resisting and rejecting those who defend the poor at the judgment gate, and we have blamed and denied those who speak truth for them. We have built secure homes and planted fruitful fields, but we know that if we sow only for ourselves, we will not reap safe dwellings or crops to savor. We have ignored the poor and allowed them to be trampled, while taking profit and taxes from their sustenance. Forgive us, Lord, when we have caused affliction, sought money to excess, and pushed away from us the needy on our streets. Teach us the wisdom of silence in a time of dishonest speech, the wisdom of deeds instead of words.

The Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, so seek good and not evil, that you may live just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate, and seek that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious.

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Anthem "A New 23rd" – Robin Kaufman Anderson

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 24:10-22; Luke 16:19-31

Anthem "The Meditations of my Heart" - Hagenberg

Sermon "The Gap and the Gate"

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Hymn of Response "When the Poor Ones" – STJ #69

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Mission Network
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Children's Offering:** Freeman Community Garden

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

III. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn "God Be With You" – HWB #430

Benediction

Go with God's blessings, to be a blessing to others; God keep you in peace, for the sharing of peace with others; and in giving freely what you have freely received, may you find in the face of the other the very joy that God finds in loving you.

Postlude "Tocatta in E Minor" - Pachelbel

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Paul Balzer; **Greeters:** Barb Yoder and Monte Waltner; **Musicians:** Allison Wilson (organist); Sharla Unruh, JoLeen Cunningham, Robin Anderson, Sydney Anderson, Linda Schrag (accompanist); **Coffee:** Classroom #10

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.

Pastor's Class during Sunday School in the Pastor's Study.

Sunday, July 27, 2:30 p.m. – AMBS Open House with Dave Boshart

Bible Study – 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY, August 3, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Renee Bradford; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); Tuba Trio (special music); **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Angie Brockmueller; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

Communion will be part of the service.

Worship Offering: Central Plains Conference

Sunday School Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Freeman Community Garden

Bible Study – 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Coming Events

August 3 & August 17 – South Church Summer Study Series

Tuesday, August 5, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

Friday, August 8, 7:00 p.m. – Musical Celebration of Life for Mariell (Mary Waltner) in Pioneer Hall.

August 10-14 – Turner County Fair (Ice Cream Booth)

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

The 2025 Gifts Discernment Survey are due today in the box in the narthex.

Here is the link for the ice cream booth sign up sheet. Ben will plan on bringing a printed copy each Sunday leading up to the fair so people can sign up at church. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BADA729A5F5C43-57622270-salem>

South Church Summer Study Series: July 27 – The Lord's Prayer and New Testament Prayer continued; **Aug. 3** - Hours of Prayer & The Jesus Prayer; **Aug. 17** - Prayer in Private and Public, with Heart and Mind.

Upcoming MCC school kit drive – During the month of July, South Church Mission & Service team will be participating in MCC's School Kit Challenge. School kits are MCC's most requested item and their goal is to collect a total of 25,000 kits. A list of items is available on the narthex table. Monetary donations can be given to Lee Brockmueller for school kits or purchase supplies at your convenience. Thank you!

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, July 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

The Freeman community is invited to an informal time of sharing with President David Boshart of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary at Salem (South) Mennonite Church on Sunday, July 27, at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Church. Refreshments will be served, and a brief update will be shared about the latest developments at AMBS.

Head of School Opening at Freeman Academy

Freeman Academy (Freeman, SD) is seeking an interim Head of School to begin in fall 2025. This individual will provide educational and spiritual leadership for a K-12 Mennonite school, which has a strong fine arts tradition and rich history of serving the church and community. To learn more about Freeman Academy, please visit freemanacademy.org. To apply or for more information, email SearchCommittee@freemanacademy.org.

Hosting help needed! On September 11 and 12, Et Cetera Shoppe will host a conference for thrift shops in small towns and rural communities. (We face a different set of advantages and challenges than shops located in large cities!) We would like to provide lodging in host homes for some of the conference attendees - small-town folks just like us! Lodging is needed for the nights of Wednesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 11, plus transportation to and from the conference, which will be held at the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. You would not need to provide ANY meals. If you would be willing to help our shop out in this way, please call 925-7098 as soon as possible, and let Kris or Anita know how many guests you could host. Thanks in advance - we know the Freeman community will not let us down!

