Salem Mennonite Church
A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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October 25, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *Ein' FesteBurg* - Pomper
A Mighty Fortress – Bish

Choral Call to Worship *Joyfully Sing!* – Spevacek

Call to Worship (from Psalm 5)
Give attention to the sound of our voice, my King and my God,
for to you do we pray.
O LORD, in the morning you hear our voice;
in the morning we prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.
Through the abundance of your steadfast love, we enter your house.
We bow down at your holy temple in reverence for you.
Lead us, O LORD, in your righteousness, and make your way straight before us.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn *Lord of the Living Harvest* – (insert)

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (adapted from Isaiah 5:8-25)
Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field,
till no space is left and you live alone in the land.
Have mercy, for our great houses grow desolate and empty,
our vineyards bear little fruit, our fields meager grain.
Woe to those who rise early to run after their drinks,
who are champions at wine late at night,
who hold banquets full of music and drink,
but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD,
no reverence for the work of his hands.
Have mercy on your people, exiled from home in our lack of understanding, lest we die for hunger and are parched with thirst, both elites and masses,
descending to death in our fighting and our reveling.
Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit,

and wickedness as on a cart,
Have mercy on us, for we have called on God to show his work in our world while we fail to follow his law and spurn the word of the Holy One.
Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.
Have mercy on us, for our false speech cannot conceal death in our streets and communities.
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.
Have mercy on us, when we have been dishonest with ourselves and one another, for our roots decay and our blooms blow away like dust.
Woe to those who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
but deny justice to the innocent.
Have mercy on us, for your anger against selfishness burns toward your people, and we are like straw being licked by fire, like dry grass sinking into flames. Humble us and bring us low, let arrogant eyes turn downward to seek your path, and let the Lord Almighty be exalted by his righteousness.
The holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts, so his sheep will graze as in their own pasture, and his lambs will feed among the ruins left from the wealthy.

Anthem *For the Fruit of All Creation* – arr. Holstein

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Isaiah 5:1-7 (NIV); James 5:1-6 (ESV)
Matthew 21:28-44 (ESV)

Sermon *Whose Vineyard?*

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** MCC Meat Canner
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Student Tuition Sharing Fund
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn *I Know Not Why*– HWB #338

Benediction STJ #159

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress* - Wold

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cheryle Gering; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); Heather Haggerty (accompanist); **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

TODAY

Congregation Conversations during Sunday School & Chili Soup Lunch

2:00 p.m. – The film "The Voice of Hind Rajab," at Interpretive Center/Freeman

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, November 1, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Rita Graber (special music); **Coffee:** "Young Married" Class
Fall Bible Study begins at 1:00 p.m. following brown bag lunch

Next Sunday, Nov. 1, is All Saints' Day when we commemorate the witness of those who have died in the Lord. Please bring photos of loved ones to share with the congregation. Place them on the front of the stage when you arrive on Sunday or bring them anytime Saturday.

Worship Offering: Ecuador Project
Sunday School Offering: Salem Sunday School
Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 26, 7:30 p.m. – Deacons Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library
Wednesday, October 28, 6:45 p.m. – Handbells
7:45 p.m. – Ladies Ensemble

COMING EVENTS

Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, 22 – Bible Study/Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well
Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m. – Prayers & Fasting
Wednesday, November 4 – Chancel Choir begins rehearsals
Sunday, December 6 – Annual Meeting w/noon potluck

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

Your help is needed to prevent more stains on the carpet in fellowship hall. If you spill please clean it up right away and soak up any liquid. Please leave a note on the janitor's room door stating where the spill happened so Libby can spend some extra time working on it. Placing a paper towel over the area to mark it would also be helpful. The Trustees

South Church's Fall Bible study begins Sunday, Nov. 1, at 1:00 p.m. Participants are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch to eat together after Sunday School, or to return for the study. We'll decide a meeting time for the following Sunday afternoons (Nov. 8, 15, & 22) at this first class. The theme is "Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well," and will focus on the topics: "Inspired Scripture as Divine and Human," "How Scripture Interprets Scripture," "Senses Plain and Spiritual," and "Applying Scripture in Ethics."

Chancel Choir and **Men's Choir** will begin rehearsals on November 4. Times will be 7:30 for chancel and 8:30 for men. We are looking forward to meeting and singing together again. If you have not sung with these groups or it has been awhile, now is your chance! Come join us! Contact Donna Ries or Janet Balzer if you have any questions.

COMMUNITY NOTES

On Sunday, Oct 25 – The film **"The Voice of Hind Rajab,"** winner of the "Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize" at the 2025 film festival, will be shown Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at the Interpretive Center in Freeman. This film is sponsored by The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace.

One last fall MDS service opportunity – This fall SD MDS has been helping several single mothers replace their roofs due to severe damage from summer storms at Pine Ridge. If you are able to be part of a two-day work crew on **November 6-7** to replace one more roof, please call or text SD chairman Craig Wollman at 605-760-9657.

Swan Lake Christian Camp Dinner and Worship Fundraiser, Sunday, Nov. 8
A wonderful, awesome, really excellent dinner served with classical piano music followed by a time of worship in song in our new facility. Free-will donations received from this event will go toward the completion of the worship center/dining hall. To reserve your seat: Call Judi at 605-326-5690, email campoffice@myslcc.com

Lord of the Living Harvest



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, abr., alt.
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76

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Alternate settings, 538