

JULY 6, 2014

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Carol Buller, Accompanist

Lonnie Buerge, Worship Leader

CANDLELIGHTING PRAYER

L: God, light a flame of love in our hearts, (silent prayer) a flame of love to our families and friends, (silent prayer) a flame of love to our neighbors, (silent prayer) a flame of love to our enemies. (silent prayer)

All: Light a flame of love in our hearts to all, from the lowliest thing that lives, to the Name above all names. AMEN.

*HYMN #306

In Christ there is no East or West

A 4th of JULY REFLECTION

CONFESSION**

L: Almighty God, in whom we live and breathe and have our very being, we join believers around the world to worship you and pledge our desire to follow your son Jesus with our lives. And yet, Lord, we confess our way is cloudy. The voices around us are enticing and at times intoxicating, causing us to forget whose we are and to whom we belong. In this country there is so much for which we are thankful: freedoms, opportunities and resources which abound. But Lord, we also know, just as the children of Israel discovered, prosperity of a people sometimes displaces You as the object of our worship and allegiance.

All: Lord, reawaken within us the vision to be your people. In our journey of life, may we continue to listen to our brothers and sisters around the world. May their words encourage and challenge us to be the people you have called us to be. May we be attentive to your kingdom which is larger than our homeland and broader than our borders, contained only by the breadth of your love. In humility, grant us the clarity to see ourselves as you do, called to invest ourselves in the mission you have to love the world through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSEChristian BullerSCRIPTUREMatthew 5:33-37, 6:19-24SERMONAre we doing this right? (Not) pledgingLeroy SeatRESPONSEI pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ,
and to God's kingdom for which he died—
one Spirit-led people the world over,
indivisible, with love and justice for all.***

HYMN #90

For the fruit of all creation

COMMUNION SERVICE

- Words of Invitation and Institution
- Sharing Bread and Cup

Please come forward by the center aisle, take the bread and dip it in the cup of juice. Return by the side aisle. To receive a blessing in lieu of partaking in the bread and cup, please present yourself with hands folded. Gluten free crackers and grapes are also available.

• Hymn of Response 119b

Praise God from whom

COMMUNITY BUILDING TIME

• Introductions

We are glad you are here. Once the attendance register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

• Joys and Concerns

Slips of paper are available in the attendance register for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl at the front of the sanctuary.

- Prayers of the People
- Announcements
- Offering

*HYMN #367

For the healing of the nations

*SENDING FORTH****

- L: From where we are to where you need us,
- C: Jesus, now lead on.
- L: From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal,
- C: Jesus, now lead on.
- L: To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,
- All: Jesus, now lead on.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able.

**Written by Terry Shue, Mennonite Church USA

*** As the current Iraq War began, there were reports of children and youth in public schools being pressured to participate in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and other expressions of patriotism. June Alliman Yoder and Nelson Kraybill, faculty members at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, felt it was important for Christians of all ages to have an alternative statement that expressed allegiance to Jesus Christ. The pledge they drafted has found its way into multiple publications and is used by believers in many denominations. The authors hope that followers of Jesus say the Christian Pledge of Allegiance in settings where others are giving allegiance to country. ****From Sing the Journey #158

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. Songs designated "SJ" are in the green *Sing the Journey* hymnal.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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