

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

PRELUDE

Karen Hostetler, Accompanist

WELCOME

Duane Graber, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP INSPIRED BY PSALM 25*

**L: We come together because we trust you, God.
We need to struggle with our confusion, and let you listen.
To you, O God, we lift our souls. Remember us, for goodness' sake.**

**C: We come together to confront our fears. Fears of exposure and shame.
Fears over the motives of others. We wait on your Word.
To you, O God, we lift our souls. Remember us, for goodness' sake.**

**L: In one breath we wish shame for those who vex us, but then beg to know
your ways, your paths, your truth. To you, O God, we lift our souls.
Remember us for goodness' sake.**

**C: We find our humility, and pray you, God, won't examine our pasts:
the times we have done wrong and the times we have done nothing,
and that was wrong. We confess that we have vexed others.
To you, O God, we lift our souls. Remember us, for goodness' sake.**

L: We rely on your mercy.

**All: *You, God, are good and upright and offer steadfast love, even as we are
proud and petty, forgetful of you, manipulative in our prayers to you.
Please, teach us. Lead us. Love us. Help us act our faith. To you, O God,
we lift our souls. Remember us, for goodness' sake.***

***HYMN #75**

Holy, holy, holy

CHILDREN'S TIME

Ruth Harder

Genesis 9:18-17

MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE**

INVITATION AND RESPONSE

Seeker: God, where are you and what is the point of this?
How are you the beginning and the end?

Reader: As the circle has no beginning or end,
so is God and ever shall be
and so is the love of God.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
No start or finish; It is as deep as the need**

Seeker: What was the covenant you made and why did you make it?
Did you regret it? Was this some sort of change?

Reader: In that love, God made a promise
to Noah and to all living creatures for evermore
that the earth would never flood again.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
No start or finish; It is as deep as the need**

Seeker: Why was all this so necessary?
What was the reason for the death of the Son of God?

Reader: God's covenant is everlasting and sure.
God's covenant is a gift,
given freely for all, having no beginning or end.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
No start or finish; It is as deep as the need**

HYMN #305

Where charity and love prevail

SERMON

Encircling love

ANTHEM

O Love of God (Hymn #326)

Rainbow Choir

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.

SHARING JOY

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

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.

OFFERING

SHARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN STS #59

From ashes to the living fount



Children in K - 5th grade are dismissed for WorshipArts (Room 114), a time for children (K-5th grade) to respond to worship, ask questions and learn more about the language, ritual, movement, sound and art incorporated in worship.

*SENDING FORTH

L: Go in faith, trusting that God is at work renewing the whole creation.

C. **And may the Spirit show us the way toward true peace. Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand as you are able.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated "STS" are in the purple *Sing the Story* songbook.

**Special thanks to Debra Sapp-Yarwood for writing the call to worship and Lonnie Buerge for writing the invitation into Lent and the Meditation on Scripture response.

Now **Here** God

Here is a place for worship reflections. What are you sensing about God in the here and now? What words, images or questions do you want to take with you into this new week?

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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