

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 2015

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janelle Arnett Campbell, Accompanist

WELCOME

Debra Sapp-Yarwood, Worship Leader

***CALL TO WORSHIP INSPIRED BY PSALM 19**

God speaks volumes of glory in
skies of indigo, azure, pink or orange, and
waves that break on shorelines releasing fleeting rainbows in the spray,
the commotion of earth's creatures by day and
the wisdom that whispers in night's tranquility.

How are we to respond?

By keeping vows,
based in laws of respect, written in an ancient text,
our mortal translation of God's intent.

How are we to respond?

By desiring God,
fearing our own arrogance and God's disgust.

How are we to respond?

By recognizing the limits of mere language,
but using it anyway, because we want God's sweet sanction,
sweeter than the drippings of the honeycomb,
and we don't have rainbows to offer in return.

Language is all we have.

Let each one speak:

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to
you, my God, my rock and my redeemer.**

*HYMN # 159

All beautiful the march of days

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Grittmann

ANTHEM

God the sculptor of the mountains

See back of bulletin for text

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17; John 2:13-22

SILENT AND SPOKEN MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE**

Seeker: God, who are you? You give us commandments but we do not understand the promises. Why should we pay any attention to this?

Reader: I am God. I made those promises and I kept them.
I gave you these commandments because of my love for you.
You are here today because of love.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
neither start nor finish. It is as deep as the need.**

Seeker: How are we to know what is real? It is hard to tell what is false and what is true. We have too much to think about. We have broken your commandments many times. What hope do we have?

Reader: Don't be fooled by false promises. Don't make hollow images that have no meaning and don't give images meaning that they weren't meant to have.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
neither start nor finish. It is as deep as the need.**

Seeker: Jesus cleansed the temple. How are we to know what needs cleansing? Jesus talked to the disciples and they believed. Can you talk to us?

Reader: I'm giving you these rules because I am the beginning of it all. Honor one another and do well by them.

**Cong: The encircling love of God has no beginning or end;
neither start nor finish. It is as deep as the need.**

HYMN #161

*We give thanks unto you
Ben Shenk, leader*

SERMON

The center of it all

HYMN (see back of hymnal)

O young and fearless prophet

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 STS #50

Come, bring your burdens to God

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #483

O God, who gives us life



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

*SENDING FORTH

L: Lord Jesus, help us to follow where you go,

C: **help us see again the depth and mystery of your redeeming love.**

*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.

Anthem: *God the sculptor of the mountains*

Text by John Thornburg, Tune: SANDRIA by Gerre Hancock

God the sculptor of the mountains, God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens, God the potter of the land:
You are womb of all creation, we are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh, God the cleaver of the sea.
God the pillar of the darkness, God the beacon of the free;
You are gate of all deliv'rance, we are sightless; lead us now.

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth,
God the table turning prophet, God the resurrected Truth:
You are present every moment, we are searching; meet us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat:
You are host at every table, we are hungry; feed us now.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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