

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2015

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

PRELUDE

Rosi Penner Kaufman, Accompanist

WELCOME

Richard Tatro, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP INSPIRED BY PSALM 107*

L: Let us gather and give thanks to God,
for God is good and God's steadfast love endures forever.

C: **We give thanks because God redeems us from trouble.**

L: God's directions may be confusing,

C: **God's timeframe may be incomprehensible.
The path we must walk may be rocky, but God delivers us
from our enemies, including those inside us.**

L: God heals us and delivers us from destruction, even self-destruction.
Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love and wondrous works.
Whether we sit here today in quiet pain or in comfort, whether we come
from Independence or Basehor, from Kearney or Raymore,
from Rosedale or Rome...

All: *Let us give heed to the undercurrent of divine love that presses us toward
deliverance, toward justice. Let us honor God with songs of joy and words
of wisdom.*

***HYMN #103**

Jubilate Deo omnis terra

Sing 1 x in unison and then in a round as directed

CHILDREN'S TIME

Leroy Seat

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:14-21

Karen Hostetler and Emma Campbell, readers

SILENT AND SPOKEN MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE**

Seeker 1: God, you are a mystery. You sent poisonous snakes to punish people and then told them to look at a bronze serpent to save themselves. What are you? Why kind of god can you be?

Seeker 2: Sometimes we don't understand you and we cannot see or feel you or your love. We don't get these stories and we don't know what you expect of us.

Reader: But the people became impatient with Moses and with God and complained but seeing the wrath of God, they repented and asked to be spared and God spared them but required them to see an image of their sin so that they might be healed.

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

Seeker 1: God, what do you want out of this world? What were you expecting out of us? Are we really that important to you? We do not feel connected.

Seeker 2: God, do you really love us? Do you have any idea what we are going through? Does it matter to you how we feel; how bad things can go for us at times?

Reader: Our God is a merciful God and made a covenant to reconnect with the world. God did not seek to destroy the world but to save it. Our God is merciful; loving is the embrace of God.

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

Seeker 1: Lord, you say you sent the Light to us. We don't feel it very often and sometimes, we want to stay in the shadows; the darkness that we know.

Seeker 2: God, I worry that I'm failing too often. Where is my hope? At times, it seems like I can't find it. How can I know that you are with me and that you will stay with me? God are you there?

Reader: The Light has come to the world and that Light is the promise of God. Light draws truth but darkness covers sin.

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

ANTHEM

God so loved the world

Stainer

SERMON

God so loathed, or is it loved?

HYMN STS#121

Nothing is lost on the breath of God
Jesse Graber, violin; Jonathan Wiebe, cello

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #306

In Christ there is no East or West



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 INSPIRED BY EPHESIANS 2:1-10

L: God is rich in mercy and love.

C: We are what God has made us, created in Christ for good works, which God prepared to be our way of life.

All: Amen.

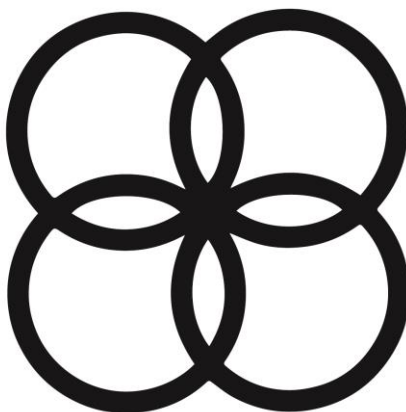
*POSTLUDE

* 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 preparing the meditation on scripture.



RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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