

JANUARY 29, 2017

***Being Mennonite:
Explore the past, act in the present, shape the future***

Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Karla Leuenberg, accompanist

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Jeff Shelly

One: Creator of Light, thank you for gathering us to this place of worship
in the light of this day.

May your light comfort the hearts and minds of all who grieve this day.

May your light heal the minds and bodies of all who struggle with illness.

May your light be near those who fear for their safety.

May your light illumine all who serve with care and compassion.

**All: Send forth your light of healing and peace here and into all the world,
we pray, in the name of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.**

*HYMN #43

Christ is our cornerstone

STORYTELLING

CHILDREN'S TIME

Renee Reimer

HYMN

Water has held us (see next page)

Water has held us

BUNESSAN 55. 54D

C Dm/F G F C

1 Wa - ter has held us, moved by cre - a - tion.
 2 Wa - ter has saved us, as the sea part - ed
 3 Wa - ter has cleansed us, bathed with for - give - ness,
 4 Wa - ter has touched us, fresh on our fore - heads,

C/E F C G7 C Am F

Out of dark cha - os, broke forth the light. Up from the del - uge,
 for Is - rael's chil - dren, walled on each side. This love has led us,
 has, with clear bless - ing, washed sin a - way. Jor - dan's strong cur - rents
 show - ing an in - ward, spir - i - tual grace. In - to God's fam - 'ly,

C Am D C Em Am Dm/F G C

show - ing God's prom - ise, has come a rain - bow, glad - den - ing sight.
 helped us in trou - ble, on far ho - ri - zon, God's cloud our guide.
 God's Son an - nounc - ing, made a be - gin - ning, bap - tis - mal day.
 we have been wel - come. As sons and daugh - ters, we take our place.

Text: R. Deane Postlethwaite, 1978

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Music: Gaelic melody; *Songs and Hymns of the Gael*, 1888; harmonized by Martin Shaw, alt.

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ANTHEM

An affirmation of faith

arr. Burroughs

O God of creation we praise and adore you
 For all your great mercies thru years that are gone;
 Your guidance and goodness thru many generations
 Have brought us at last to a new day's bright dawn.

Help us to be faithful to you and your kingdom,
 Your church, and the work of Christ in all our lands.

May loyalty, sacrifice, courage attend us
 And bring to fullest triumph the work in our hand!

With voices united our praises we offer,
 And gladly our songs of true worship we raise;
 Our sins now confessing we pray for your blessing:
 To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

SERMON

Aiming for progress, not perfection

BAPTISM

Take, O take me as I am 81

77. 74

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall". The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with the same time signature and key signature. The lyrics are: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: John L. Bell
 Music: John L. Bell

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BLESSING AND COMMITTING

BAPTISM

Allison Unruh

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Mike and Linda Hiebert
Nick Schroeder and Melissa Funk

*CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION

As we now receive you into the fellowship of the church, we make this covenant with you as we renew our own covenant with God:

**to bear each others' burdens, to assist in times of need,
to share our gifts and possessions, to forgive as Christ has forgiven us,
to support each other in joy and sorrow,
and in all things to work for the common good,
thus making known Christ's presence among us to the glory of God.**

As we unite with each other now, may we all be joined with Christ, our Lord.

*HYMN #118

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

COMMUNITY BUILDING

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

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

SENDING

*HYMN #420

Heart with loving heart united



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

*SENDING FORTH

One: Let us leave this worship with renewed hope and imagination.
Let us go into the world as people of welcome, signs of a new creation and of God's embracing love.

All: May it be so. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand as you are able.

New member introductions

Allison Unruh:

I grew up attending Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, KS. My father's family, as far back as we can trace, comes from the Mennonite religion/tradition. I am thankful that he married my mother to diversify my gene pool. My parents met at Bethel College, which I also attended for a few years. It was an amazing place and I still have the best friends from my short time there. I finished my higher education at K-State, where I earned a Master's in Sociology with a focus on gender, racial, and socio-economic inequality. I currently work at KU where I provide professional development for secondary special ed teachers with the goal of improving transition services for children with disabilities.

I went to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp and Camp Mennoscah until I aged out and am now super happy to pass on my love of these remarkable places to my oldest son. I have two smart and attractive children, Ryder who recently turned two and Fischer who is 13. They are amazing and funny and I am truly blessed to be their mother. I am married to a supportive and thoughtful husband, who makes me laugh daily. We live in Shawnee KS and seem to be as settled as I have ever been. My gypsy soul has led me through vast experiences and I am grateful to have a rich life history that shaped who I am today. I try to be caring towards others, especially those most in need. I am passionate about equality and fair treatment of all fellow humans, and am not satisfied with the status quo.

I really feel that Rainbow Mennonite is the place where I can accomplish many of the things that are important to me; volunteering, worshipping God with others, listening to Ruth's insightful, sometimes funny, and always thought provoking sermons, and sharing in a community of like-minded individuals. I also appreciate the humble approach to understanding and exploring life, love, and scripture that seems so very real and unpretentious. I feel right at home being around you all as we struggle with the world around us, struggle for peace and social justice, and use our collective energy to think about how we can truly best serve God and Jesus through our service to others.

I have always felt close to God, starting with early days at church camp and going skiing with my father. Nature is an important place for me to feel the Holy Spirit. I have never really felt unsure of or unprepared to take this large step of baptism; it was always a matter of priorities and life circumstances. I am feeling so blessed that my life has brought me here now, with Ruth and this community, to share this important day.

Thank you for accepting me and my children into your church and community!

Mike and Linda Hiebert:

Originally from Winfield, Linda and Mike spent most of their adult lives in Wichita. Mike was a teacher and Linda a nurse. They have two daughters. Heather lives in KC with her husband David and their children Ben (3) and Kelly (1). Mollie and her husband live in Denver. Linda and Mike retired and fulfilled a lifelong dream of living in the mountains of Colorado. The grandkids, however, interfered with their plans. After accumulating a million miles on their car driving from Colorado Springs to Kansas City they decided to move to KC. They are transferring their membership from Lorraine Ave. Mennonite Church in Wichita. Writes Mike and Linda: "Rainbow was the first and only Church we visited when we moved here. The inclusive nature of this congregation convinced us that this was the place for us. We believe that Christianity is a journey not a destination. We look forward to the learning and fellowship offered here."

Melissa Funk and Nick Schroeder:

Nick & Melissa grew up in the Newton/Goessel area, but their paths crossed through Bethel College Summer Music Camps as teenagers. Both of their families were and still are close friends, which made their union even more special. Anyone could ask, and they will both admit to Nick's 15-year crush that was finally fulfilled.

Nick attended Tabor Mennonite near Goessel and will be transferring his membership, while Melissa attended Koerner Heights in Newton. They want to continue their faith journey at Rainbow because this community is like home. Nick, Melissa, Liberty, Brian, and Seoul all enjoy worshipping through music, fellowship, and growing together as a congregation. According to Nick & Melissa, "Rainbow has become a cornerstone of our family's identity. We love the closeness we have with everyone, and this is a wonderful place for our children too. We as a family will continue to grow through this church of many gifts, One Spirit for the glory and praise of God."

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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