

**FEBRUARY 26, 2017**

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

**Worship – 9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School – 10:50 a.m.**

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**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Karen Goering Hostetler

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Carmen Shelly

One: Creator God, help us to look up as we worship,  
noticing the world in which you have placed us.  
May our voices join those in churches in mountain villages,  
in bustling towns, in city centers, on seashores, in prairie towns.

**All: Gather us we pray and as we praise you for the gift of a new day  
on our journey with you as our guide and wisdom. Amen**

\*HYMN #6

*Here in this place*

**STORYTELLING**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nick Schroeder

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121  
Hebrews 12:1-3

SERMON

*Why stay?*

ANTHEM

*All the beauty of the Lord*

Gwyneth Walker

## BLESSING AND COMMITTING

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION: LEE BEERS

\*CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION

One: Our help comes from God,  
who created the heavens and the earth.

God will not let us stumble or fall;  
the one who watches over us never tires and never sleeps.

It is God who watches over us,  
whose protective presence stands beside us.  
Neither the bright light of the sun,  
nor the dim light of the moon will harm us.

**All:** *May God continue to watch over us as we come and go,  
keeping us safe from harm, this day and forever.*

\*HYMN #332

*Blessed Assurance*

## 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

### \*SENDING FORTH

One: Tradition and choice  
Singing and silence  
Faith and works  
Immersion and sprinkling  
Youthful exuberance and aged wisdom  
Mennonite and faith seeking expression

**All: *May we go from here with joy,  
confident that the love and mercy of God  
goes with us.  
AMEN***

### \*HYMN #427

*You shall go out with joy*



*Children in K - 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### \*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* hymnal.

Anthem text: *All the Beauty of the Lord*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness in the sea.  
There's a kindness and a justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where our sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where our failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There's a wideness in God's mercy. There's a kindness in God's love.

For the love of God is broader than the vision of our mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If we could but love more simply, ever living by The Word,  
Then our lives would be enlightened with the beauty of the Lord.

If we could but love more simply, ever living by The Word,  
Then our lives would be enlightened with the mercy and the kindness,  
With the healing and forgiveness,  
With the sweetness and compassion  
All the beauty of the Lord.

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## **RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH**

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