

September 24, 2023

Peace Sunday

Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts. -James 3:18

Worship 9:30am

Fellowship 10:30am

Faith Formation for all ages 10:50am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Naomi Wiebe, pianist

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Janice Friesen, worship leader

One: Give thanks to the Lord because God is good.
God's faithful love lasts forever!

**All: Give thanks to the one who hung the skies with art.
God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Give thanks to the one who shaped the water over the earth.
God's faithful love lasts forever.

**All: Give thanks to the one who called into being the great lights
of day and of night. God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Give thanks to the one who brings deliverance from oppression.
God's faithful love lasts forever.

**All: Give thanks to the one who brings rescue from danger.
God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Give thanks to the one who leads the people through the wilderness.
God's faithful love lasts forever.

**All: Give thanks to the one who humbles the mighty.
God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Our God is the one who rescues from danger.
God's faithful love lasts forever.

**All: Our God is the one who walks beside us through trials.
God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Our God is the one who provides food for all living things.
God's faithful love lasts forever!

**All: Our God is the one who heals our wounds.
God's faithful love lasts forever.**

One: Give thanks to the God of Heaven, the Prince of Peace,
the Spirit of Comfort.

All: God's faithful love lasts forever!

Inspired by Psalm 136

*HYMN VT 179

At the dawn of your creation

WE LISTEN AND LEARN

MOMENT OF WONDER

Ruth Harder

HYMN VT 514

I Saw a Tree

Led by Christina Hofer and Paul Zehr

CONFESSION**

God of creation

We come to you this season recognizing that you are the creator,
and we open our eyes to the beauty that fills the creatures, the land, the air and the water.
You are creator not only of humankind, but of all that graces this planet and this universe.

God of these days

In this time of pandemic, climate change, racial inequity, biodiversity loss and other threats to
your creation, we recognize that we are blessed by what you have made, while also dependent
on how that creation is cared for.

God of justice

We come recognizing our complicity in not caring for that with which you have blessed us.
We fail our sisters and brothers around the world when our actions cause harm to our world.

God of peace

We ask your guidance for how to honour your creation in these challenging times.
We humbly open our hearts and minds to what we can do to be your instruments of peace,
in helping to make the Anabaptist church a community that people can point to and say —
they are taking creation care seriously; they are faithful Christians.

God of assurance

Thank you for the assurance that you are with us in this journey.
Renew our spirits, as we work to renew our common home.
In the name of Jesus, amen.

ANTHEM

for text see back page

Maya's Prayer for Peace

Trenney

SERMON

Ruth Harder

*HYMN VT 712

Beauty for Brokenness

WE RESPOND AND SHARE

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.

As we share our joys and concerns, please be mindful of those gathered remotely.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayer for the List of Coming Disasters, by Carol Penner

Led by Darrell Wiens and Arleen Cook

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks 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 table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

***HYMN VT 145**

Touch the Earth Lightly

***SENDING FORTH**

***POSTLUDE**

***You are invited to stand**

**** Doug Graber Neufeld, professor of biology at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va.;
director of Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions**

Anthem text: *Maya's Prayer for Peace* Text by Maya Angelou,
Music by Tom Trenney

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days,
for then we have you to lean upon.

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the holy days,
for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.

Father, Mother, God, thank you.

For those who have no voice,
we ask you to speak.

For those who feel unworthy,
we ask you to pour out your love in waterfalls of tenderness.

For those who live in pain,
we ask you to bathe them in your river of healing.

For those who are lonely,
we ask you to keep them company.

For those who are depressed,
we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope!

Father, Mother, God, you, the borderless sea of substance,
we ask you to give all the world that which we need the most:

Peace.

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

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