



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

A Vision of Peace and Equality

January 15, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
(Traditional American Melody)

Mavis Ortman

Welcome

André Eisenbeis

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Call to Worship

L: We come to worship God, who has made us and knows us;

P: We come to celebrate God’s presence among us!

L: We come to follow Jesus, who leads us to New Life;

P: We come with joy, knowing that in Christ we have eternal life!

L: We come to listen to the Holy Spirit, who calls us forth.

ALL: May we enter this worship knowing that the Spirit is alive among us! Amen!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*

VT #57

Greeting one another

Children’s Story

Diane Ellinger

Celebrating our Offerings – Mennonite Church USA

Offertory – *Blessed Assurance* (Phoebe Knapp)

PROCLAIMING

Hearing the Old Testament

Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

Song – *Blessed Are You*

VT #290

* Hearing the Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon – “A Vision of Peace”

Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Covenant Prayer of Recommitment to Justice

Song – *We Shall Overcome*

VT #803

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Promise of Peace

Revelation 7:9-17

* Closing Song – *Go, My Friends, in Peace* (verse B)

VT #839

* Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

With Jesus, Amos and Dr. King, we ponder the call for justice to roll down upon all systems, all peoples and in all places. There can be no peace without the presence of justice. Today we gather in worship to reflect on God’s unending call for justice and righteousness to reign. We are so glad you have decided to worship with us and we welcome all!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**.

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Noon – Potluck and congregational forum

3:00 p.m. – Fuente de Vida church service

Following the worship service today, **everyone is invited to a potluck and meeting** organized by the Salem-Zion Committee Structure Task Force. As discussed at the annual meeting in November, this forum will provide an opportunity for congregational input as we look at Salem-Zion’s committees and the ministries that they support.

THIS WEEK

Jan. 18 (Wed) – *Feeding Our Faith*; Supper at 6:15pm and study and children’s programming for all ages at 7:00pm

Jan. 19 (Thurs) – Worship Committee meeting at 7:00pm

Jan. 20-22 – 5th & 6th Grade Retreat at SLCC (Salem-Zion pays half of fee)

Jan. 20 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Jan. 21 (Sat) – Women’s book study at 9:30am

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 22

Next Sunday is *Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday*. The scripture texts are Isaiah 40:28-31, Psalm 62:1-6, Luke 18:35-43, I Peter 1:3-6 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for **MCC Meat Canning**.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Bernie Koller.
- places in our community, country and world where justice has not yet been realized. Pray for politicians, law makers, and leaders who are called to lead with the interests of all people in mind.
- an end to racist behaviors, actions, and policies that intentionally and unintentionally withhold power from minority voices.

- courage to use our voices and actions (like Amos) and call for justice to roll down.

- our sister churches in Nebraska: Beemer, Bellwood, Bethesda, First Mennonite of Lincoln, Milford, Salem in Shickley, Wood River, and the Omaha Chin Christian Church.

Food Collection for the FA Dorm: There will be a box in the fellowship hall for anyone who would like to send the dorm home with grocery items on January 22nd. Fresh fruit, dry goods, meat, bread, potatoes, and freezer meals are all greatly valued. Thank you! -Service & Outreach Committee

A **“Remembrance Reception” for Colleen Waltner** (Jay Waltner’s wife who died this past fall after a courageous battle with cancer) will be held in Sioux Falls on Saturday, January 21 from 10:00am-2:00pm at Central Church.

Minutes from the October Deacon meeting have been posted in the narthex.

2023 church yearbooks are available in the narthex. Please contact the church office throughout the year with any updates or corrections. New addresses, etc. received throughout 2023 will be printed in our monthly newsletters.

A Covenant Prayer of Recommitment to Justice

Reader 1: O God, who has created your children to be free, we attest in word and deed that you are our God and we are your people. From our earliest days as the people whom you intend to be free, O God, you have called us forth from self-seeking bondage, comfort, complacency, and complaint, to freeing and redeeming action for justice everywhere in the world.

People: You are our freeing God, and we would be your free and freeing people.

Reader 2: O God of Exodus and the Burning Bush, of the Prophets and of Jesus, we hear your powerful calling to be your servants in the service of all those who are oppressed. At every turn we hear your voice in the cries of the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the broken, for you made yourself one with those who seek justice, freedom, and peace. We share a vision, a promise, and a yearning for the day of your reign, O God.

People: You are our servant God, and we would be your serving people.

Reader 3: O God, Our Sustainer, search our hearts and reveal to us our sinfulness, all the ways that we contribute to injustice and to self-destroying bondage. Give us deep courage to find the true path of your way, ready to give our very selves as living sacrifices for your will. We have heard your calling. Hear us now as we make our pledge. (All rise, if able).

People: You are our God and we are your people. We pledge ourselves now to pursue relentlessly that living, breathing justice which transforms persons and peoples. To your will for justice we recommit ourselves and pledge ourselves, our funds, our actions. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day worship resources; Presbyterian Peacemaking Program - www.pcusa.org/peacemaking January 2011

Praying and Working for Justice and Peace: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham, Alabama jail, April 16, 1963