



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

January 24, 2021

Anabaptist Sunday

“Following Jesus Together Across Barriers”

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *The Word of God Is Solid Ground* (J. Harold Moyer) Sherilyn Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship Gloria Graber

L: O come, let us give our ears to the witness of truth!

**P: Lord, we are here to learn about following your commands to cross the spiritual, emotional and physical barriers that surround us.**

L: O come, let us reflect the glory of the Lord of Israel!

**P: Lord, we are here, help us to be salt and light in this world.**

L: O come, let us seek the Lord while he may be found!

**P: Lord, we are here. Come to us, so that we may call upon you.**

- Nishant Sidh, Mennonite Church in Rajnandgaon, India

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *Rejoice, rejoice in God* (HWB #313)

Chorister: Ken Mannes

Celebrating God’s Mission – MCC Meat Canning

Children’s Story Paul Ortman

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading/Prayer based on Psalm 27 (NRSV)

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the .....

**P: Lord, may your light and salvation extend, crossing all barriers of casteism, classism, religionism and individualism. Fill this world that is full of fears with your confidence.**

L: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord .....

**P: Lord, we are your holy temple. Give us a desire and burden to be a refuge and a hiding place to the people who have become homeless and jobless in pandemic times, and are struggling to settle down again in their lives.**

L: Hear O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me....

**P: Many of our brothers and sisters created in your image are crying out in despair and hopelessness. May the peace, joy and hope that is found in our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon their lives.**

L: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help... Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,

**P: Lord, use your church to welcome and take care of the forsaken in our communities around us.**

L: Teach me your ways, O Lord, and lead me on a level path....

**P: The lives of many people have changed because of the coronavirus**

**pandemic in this last year. Many of us are walking rough paths of uncertainty, danger and deprivation. Help us, so that by following Jesus together, we may help all to see the goodness of God, as we all seek a smooth level path in our lives.**

**ALL: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

- Nishant Sidh, Mennonite Church in India, Rajnandgaon, India

Song – *In Christ there is no East or West* (HWB #306)

\* Hearing the Gospel John 4:1ff

Sermon – “Crossing Barriers” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Testimony Gloria Graber

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *Lift high the cross* (HWB #321)

Benediction

Postlude – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (arr. William Ortman)

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Today, together with believers of Christ all over the world, we celebrate **Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday**. We are part of a large global network of churches that follow Christ from an Anabaptist perspective! Today’s service was prepared by Mennonite World Conference member churches in Asia. Welcome to worship! We are so glad you decided to join us.

Today's **prelude and postlude** are hymns of significance to the Anabaptist movement, each arranged by a musician with local ties. "The Word of God Is Solid Ground" is one of eight hymns our blue hymnal designates as Anabaptist heritage hymns. The tune was composed by J. Harold Moyer, who taught at Freeman Junior College from 1951-55 and later fashioned the prelude. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was arranged by former Moyer student and Salem-Zion member William Ortman, and is based on one of Martin Luther's best-known chorales. CMU Professor Emeritus John J. Friesen has argued that Luther's own reforms, "and the conflicts they spawned between Catholics and Protestants, created space for the Anabaptist movement to take root."

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **MCC Meat Canning**. Every year MCC's Mobile Meat Canner travels across the United States and Canada meeting volunteers who prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork to be sent around the world. Over 30,000 people a year volunteer to fill, weigh, wash and label every can. Gabriel Eisenbeis is currently serving on the

canner. Thank you for your help with feeding the hungry around the corner and across the world!

**Today** – Catechism at 4:00 p.m. at the church

### **THIS WEEK**

Jan. 27 (Wed) - Zoom Bible Study from Mark 4-5 – “*Storms, Satan and Sickness*” at 10 a.m.

- Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. Sunday school department; Zoom) led by Sheila Epp at 6:45 p.m.
- Bible Study led by Roy Kaufman in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

### **NEXT SUNDAY – January 31**

Next Sunday the focus of the morning is “*God’s Consistent Character*” and the theme is *Jonah*. The Biblical text of Jonah will be acted on and reflected on. Come and See!! Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday is to be determined.

### **COMING EVENTS**

Jan-Feb Wed. nights – Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. SS Dept.)

Jan-Mar Wed. mornings – Zoom Bible study from Mark at 10:00 a.m.

Feb. 3 – Feeding Our Faith at 7:00 p.m.

## **Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News**

### **Happenings over the past week:**

- On Monday, Clara Graber had successful hip surgery in Sioux Falls. She was able to come home on Tuesday.
- Recently Allen and Ardelle Schrag moved from their apartment to the Tieszen Home. The Schrag’s new room is #202.

### **Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Duane and LaVonne Schrag.
- those recovering from recent surgeries or illnesses. Pray for Clara as she regains strength in her hip.
- the 23 member and associate member churches/conferences in Asia (Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam). Christianity is a minority in many of these countries. Pray that MWC member churches who are suffering persecution and hardship may have courage and hope to persevere.
- We give thanks for the peaceful transition of power that happened in our nation’s capital last Wednesday. Many people were praying for peace on this day and we thank God for that.

- Peace and Justice. We join in with the prayer offered by Mennonite Central Committee: “We pray for the audacity to be seeds of peace in this time. We pray for strength to resist the temptation to meet hate with hate. Such dehumanization only feeds a cycle of hatred and violence. The ministry of Jesus was one of extravagant love while confronting systems of injustice and transforming hearts and minds to an upside-down kingdom (Luke 4). We must join Christ’s work of radically refusing to accept the sinful structures around us, structures embodied by Christian nationalism and white supremacy. At the same time, we are called to be peacemakers, reflecting Christ’s ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:16-20).” - MCC January 2021

### **Coming this Week: Feeding Our Faith**

This next Wednesday, **January 27<sup>th</sup>**, Roy Kaufman continues his third Bible Study lesson based on his new book, “*The Drama of a Rural Community’s Life Cycle*.” You can also log into ZOOM to listen. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm and we ask that you wear masks. Join us safely even if you haven’t been there.

**Looking for Testimonials:** Every household is encouraged to reflect on and write down how you have experienced God’s presence, healing, and movement in your life over these past 10 months. These “testimonies” give inspiration to others who are also on the journey. Send them to Pastor Corey via email, text or in the mail. Thank you!

It is time to starting thinking about **Valentine Boxes** for our four year post high school young people. Due to the pandemic, we are asking those of you who are willing to provide an item(s) for the boxes to call Sheila Epp - home (evenings) 925-7511 or cell 605-951-2327. Here is a list of items we are requesting: hot chocolate packets, instant latte mix, granola bars, trail mix, rice krispie treats, gum, chex mix, gatorade/crystal light packets, tea bags, microwave popcorn, caramel corn. We are also asking for people to write a short note to include in the box. Call Sheila if you are willing to write a note as well. There will be a plastic tote by the men’s coat room for you to put your items in. Cards may be put in this box as well. This year the boxes will be packed by the committee. Thank You in advance for your willingness to provide items for these boxes. In addition, we ask for your prayers for these young people. These Valentine boxes are a way for us as a church family to say “we love you and care for you!” -Sheila Epp and Beth Epp

Salem-Zion is facilitating a group subscription to *Anabaptist World* as was done for *The Mennonite* previously. Please contact the church office by **January 25** if you’d like to receive *Anabaptist World* or if you have any questions about subscriptions.

We are so thankful for all those who have faithfully led worship, given children's stories, and been choristers during the last several months. Maybe by now, others of you are feeling ready to join this group. If so, let us know! **The worship and music committees continue to seek willing participants** in worship in the coming months. Nancy Miller and Kerwin Graber chair these committees.

Deacon meeting **minutes** from December are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

### Community Connections

**Rural Revival** will meet on January 25 at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Meeting Room of the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. All are welcome to attend.

**Pork BBQ Jan. 26:** Enjoy a BBQ pork sandwich, beans, chips, and drink at the boys varsity basketball game against Bridgewater-Emery at Freeman Academy on Tuesday, Jan. 26. To-go meals also available. Serving in the Dining Hall from 5:45pm-7:30pm. Please wear masks when social distancing isn't possible. Proceeds support Freeman Academy's Booster Club for activities including music, speech, drama, and athletics.

A **noodle making day** for the Schmeckfest drive-through has been scheduled for Saturday, February 6 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We want to be responsible in keeping people safe, so masks will be required. If, at any time, you need a break from wearing them you can step out of the dining room for a break. Coffee will be provided but you will need to bring your own snacks and a brown bag lunch. Your help is appreciated but if you are a person who is at risk or isn't feeling well, you are asked to stay home.

**Donations sought for Schmeckfest drive-thru:** Due to the cancellation of Schmeckfest 2021, the FA Auxiliary is planning another Schmeckfest drive-thru event. Homemade ethnic food items and fresh Schmeckfest sausage will be sold March 19-20 and 26-27. This will follow the state recommended guidelines for safety from COVID-19. The auxiliary is asking local bakers for donations of the following popular items: fruit pockets, cheese pockets, kuchen, noodles, poppyseed rolls and pumpkin rolls. We are limiting the variety of items to help streamline the ordering process. Anyone willing to make these homemade food items is asked to contact Sheila Epp, 605-951-2327 Skyla Dowden, 925-4191 or Deb Schmeichel, 648-3430, to offer items. The auxiliary will also hold project work days with dates to be announced in the coming weeks. Watch for more information on the event and details on how to place an order.

The January edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/35XumvX>. In our current issue we invite all to participate in the MDS Annual Celebration, there's a deeper look at the challenges of scheduling volunteers during a pandemic, and we'll share how the Lancaster, PA unit is collaborating with the community to repair fire damage at a house for homeless families.

Join **Mennonite Disaster Service** February 6, 2 PM as we celebrate the work of our many volunteers in 2020 and look ahead to what God has in store for MDS in 2021. Through our theme of Unexpected Opportunities, Unexpected Blessings, we will tell stories of hope and restoration during the pandemic as we helped survivors of natural disasters get back into their homes. Find more information at: <https://mds.mennonite.net/annual-celebration/>.

#### Praying for God's Peace in Ordinary Time:

*"God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope may flow through us to the world."*

- Vision Statement of Mennonite Church USA

