



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

A God Who Looks Like Jesus: Forgiving

November 17, 2024

10:30am

“Bless the LORD...who forgives all your iniquity.” - Psalm 103:3

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude Austin Unruh

Welcome Sheila Epp

Call to Worship (from Psalm 103)

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God’s benefits:

L: Who forgives all your iniquity and heals all your diseases.

P: Who redeems your life from the Pit and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

ALL: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Opening Prayer

* Singing our Praise – *God of the Fertile Fields* VT #750

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Paul Ortman

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Offering – Mennonite Church USA

Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Jeremiah 31:31-34

Song – *I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous* VT #590

* Hearing the Gospel Luke 23:32-43

Sermon – “Jesus Forgives” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *As a Deer in Want of Water* VT #552

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Song – *There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind* VT #828

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

The fact that Jesus forgives us is Good News! While we struggle at times in the practice of forgiving others, Jesus forgives. May God’s Spirit help us all to grow in offering or receiving forgiveness which will transform our lives. We are glad you are joining us in worship!

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

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

4:00pm – Freeman Area Children’s Choir concert at Salem-Zion (sanctuary and kitchen/fellowship hall reserved all afternoon)

THIS WEEK

Nov. 20 (Wed) – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm

Nov. 20 – Youth Group at 6:30pm

Nov. 20 – Deacons Meeting at 7:00pm

Nov. 20 – Men’s Choir rehearsal at 7:30pm at Salem-Zion; Joint Men’s Choir at South Church at 9:00pm for Thanksgiving

Nov. 22 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Nov. 24

Next Sunday we continue our fall theme of “A God Who Looks Like Jesus.” The focus of our worship will be “*Nonviolence*.” The text is Matthew 26:47-56 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. The offering will be for the Northern Turner County and Bethany Food Pantries.

COMING EVENTS

Nov. 24 – Annual Business Meeting at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall; please bring a sack lunch, coffee will be provided

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Service at Salem Mennonite at 10:00am

Dec. 1 – Yearbook deadline (final deadline due to printing schedule)

Dec. 22 – Christmas Choirs Program at 7:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of forgiveness that frees us to be and act as God’s redeemed people of peace.

- the gentle rains that nourished the dry ground in our area.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Helen Tieszen.

- courage and faith to forgive people from past hurts.

- the Freeman Academy Corporation Meeting as they gather to listen, pray, and discern together.
- those who have moved recently that they can settle into their new living space with peace.
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us-- and may we be willing to heed God's call.

There is an offering basket in the narthex this Sunday for **Mennonite Disaster Service**. All proceeds will go to hurricane relief and cleanup with MDS. Please make checks out to Salem-Zion, with MDS on the memo line. The idea for this offering originated from a group project of one of the Spiritual Life groups at Freeman Academy. Thank you for supporting the work of MDS in this way.

Joint North/South Church men's choir will rehearse for the Thanksgiving Day service at South Church. We will have a shortened rehearsal on Wednesday, November 20 at 9:00 p.m. and a full rehearsal Wednesday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome whether or not you are able to make it to rehearsals. Please invite your family and other Thanksgiving guests to join us. I'm hoping for a full choir loft. - Janet Balzer

We are having an influx of mice in the church building. Please do not leave snack and food items in the Sunday School rooms or elsewhere in the building unless they are in mouse-proof containers. Thank You. - The Trustees

The Administrative Board is recommending an **amendment to the constitution** regarding the makeup of the Administrative Board. This will be discussed and voted on at the annual congregational meeting.

The **agenda and reports for the annual congregational business meeting** are available in the narthex, along with a handout concerning proposed amendments to the constitution.

Those who attend Salem-Zion are invited to receive *Anabaptist World*. The household treasury pays for a group subscription (\$44 per subscriber), and the subscription list is updated each year. Please contact the church office by November 30 if you'd like to be added or removed from the subscription list for 2025, or if you'd like any further information.

Newly posted items on the bulletin boards in the narthex: the financial report for the **SD MCC Relief Sale** for the past fiscal year, the **Et Cetera Shoppe** report for 2023, a letter and photos from **Dale and Bethsaba Nafziger**, and a thank-you letter from the Presentation Sisters for Salem-Zion's donation to Caminando Juntos.

Community Connections

Looking for a unique Christmas gift idea? Stop into **Et Cetera Shoppe** this holiday season to give someone you love the gift of purchasing bees, chickens or ducks from Mennonite Central Committee, for families in need around the world. These animals are an invaluable source of both food and income. For a \$15 donation, you can choose an animal and receive a small gift card telling your special someone which animal was purchased for them. When you participate in this Christmas Giving Project, we'll place an animal ornament on our Christmas tree – hopefully, by Christmas, we'll have a tree covered with ornaments, and 30 animals headed to families who need them!

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, November 25 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

Et Cetera Shoppe once again would welcome your **donations of traditional pfeffernusse (peppernut) cookies** made from the recipe of your choice. Every year, the sale of peppernuts at the shop greatly boosts our end-of-year giving to the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Please consider making a batch and bringing them to the shop any time before Thanksgiving (and after, too)! You do not need to package them in any particular way – bringing them in ziploc bags or ice cream pails is great.

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting winter retreats this winter. 8th-12th grade retreat will be held January 10-12 and 5th-8th grade retreat will be held January 17-19. Cost is \$100 and registration is necessary and needs to be in 2 weeks prior to the weekend. There is an additional fee for late registrations. You can find more information and register online at myslcc.com.

Praying for God's Peace: "Rather than becoming paralyzed by the cacophony around us, let us focus on ways we can continue to be instruments of peace in a divided world, living with hope that transcends circumstances. Let us remember that God's word cannot be undone by any leader or policy. We are called to remember the words of Proverbs 3, which call us to trust in God with all our heart and listen for God's voice in all that we do, to keep us on track. We are called to be peacemakers, especially during times such as these. Part of that call means praying for wisdom, peace and justice — not just for those we plan to vote for — but for all involved, in order to transform our hearts in a way that only God can do." - Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA's denominational minister for Peace and Justice

Pastor Corey Miller
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