



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

February 14, 2021

The Transfiguration of Jesus

“This is my son, the Beloved; listen to him!” - Mark 9:7

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp
Welcome and Call to Worship Gwen Ortman

L: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor, there is a glory rising
born of heaven and reaching out to each one of us
**P: a light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who
we are that transfigures the world**
L: that transforms darkness into hope, that brings life from a cross where old
life ends and new life is born.

**P: In glory, Jesus meets us here, raising us from depths of valley to the
height of the mountain, carrying the weight of our humanity to the
heights of heaven’s glory.**

**ALL: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again, “This is my Son,
my Chosen; listen to him!”**

Opening Prayer
* Opening Hymn – *Praise him, praise him* (HWB #100)
Chorister: LeRoy Epp
Celebrating God’s Mission – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Story Sheila Epp
Hearing the Scriptures II Kings 2:1-12, II Corinthians 4:3-6
Song – *Jesus on the Mountain Peak* (Voices Together #301)
* Hearing the Scriptures Psalm 50: 1-6, Mark 9:2-9
Sermon Lois Janzen Preheim

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Time of silent reflection
Sharing and Congregational Prayer
* Sending Song – *Why should I feel discouraged* (SJ #103)
Benediction
Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

On this Transfiguration Sunday, we remember Jesus’ story of affirmation and love from God. We are grateful that God’s love continues to call and empower us all to serve and love. We are so glad you are here in worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

Tonight: Special Organ Recital

On Valentine’s Day, February 14th, Dan Graber will be offering an organ recital at Salem-Zion Mennonite at 7:00 p.m. The recital will feature works by Bach, Mendelssohn, and Michael Burkhardt. You are welcome to attend the service in person (masks required and social distancing) and it will also be live-streamed at https://youtu.be/zT_IsWDbPxo. We are grateful for Dan’s willingness to share his gifts in this special concert.

THIS WEEK

Feb. 17 (Wed) - Zoom Bible Study from Mark 8:27-9:49 – “*Promise of Glory*” at 10 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. (Please note: NO Faith From the Heart on Feb. 17. All families are encouraged to join the Ash Wednesday livestream)
- Board of Education meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18 (Thurs) – Worship Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – February 21

Next Sunday we begin our Lenten series “Deep Calls to Deep” and the focus of the morning is “**Called to deep relationship.**” The Biblical texts are Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25:1-10 and I Peter 3:18-22. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for the **Deacon Sharing Fund**.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Outreach & Service Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Family and friends gathered for a memorial service for Kris Waltner on Saturday, February 13th.
- Rita Graber is celebrating her 90th birthday today! We give thanks for Rita’s life and for this accomplishment!

Prayer Request: Amy Kaufman served with MCC in Myanmar a few years ago (2012-2016). Last week they had a military coup and since then there have been rising tensions. Many people are protesting amidst new restrictions for gatherings, curfews, internet shutdowns, arrests and indications that the military is starting to use more violent means to stop protests. Amy felt hopeful for this country when she was there during their 2015 democratic election, but it is disheartening to see this regression to an oppressive system that they have suffered under in the past. Many of Amy's former colleagues and students have expressed commitment to a civil disobedience movement against the military's action on social media and she is concerned about their safety during this difficult time.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.
- Bill Waltner and his children and their families in the death of his wife and their mother Kris.
- Rita Graber as she celebrates words and cards of love and encouragement on her special birthday!
- calm minds and wise leadership in Myanmar. We pray for peace in that country and pray for protection for those working for justice in that country.
- our sister churches in Nebraska: Beemer, Bellwood, Bethesda, First Mennonite of Lincoln, Milford, Salem in Shickley, Wood River, and the Omaha Chin Christian Church, and pray also for the informal gathering of Mennonites in Omaha.

Looking for Testimonials: I am still encouraging every family unit to reflect together on their faith formation during this past year. Even if you feel like you can't share this in person, I would be glad to read it on your behalf. Thank you for joining me in this spiritual practice during this season of Lent. I look forward to hearing your testimonies.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and meals that were brought to our house after my hospital stays at Sanford and Freeman Hospitals. A special thanks to Pastor Corey for his calls and prayers for me. It was all greatly appreciated and may God bless you. Clara Graber

We would like to thank all of you who helped provide items and write letters for the **Valentine Boxes** for the 4-year post high school students. It is always good to remind our young people how much we care and pray for them. If you find yourself looking for something to do as we wait for spring to come, write them a letter/send them a card (addresses are in the church yearbook - or you can get addresses from their parents). Your words/card may be the thing they need at that moment!

- Sheila Epp and Beth Epp, Valentine Box Committee

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a card from **Rochester Mennonite**, expressing sympathy in the recent passing of Irene Schrag.

MC USA's annual Lent at Home guide is now available for download at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>.

"Doing better together." We believe in the power of working together to help each other succeed on our journeys. One way we accomplish this is through our grants, scholarships, and award programs. In this new year, I'm drawing your attention to a special opportunity. Full time undergraduate students are eligible to apply for **Everence college scholarships** if they or their parents are Everence members. For more information contact Dave Janssen Salem-Zion's Everence Advocate. **Scholarship applications will be accepted now through March 10.**

Know someone who has exemplified Christ's way of peacemaking? Nominate them for the annual **Peace Mug Award** at Central Plains Mennonite Conference's Annual Meeting! Each year someone receives this award. Send your nomination to the Peace & Justice Task Group via wilmajane17@gmail.com by Friday, March 5th. Please include their name, contact information, and a simple description why you're nominating them.

COVID Relief Fund – Central Plains Mennonite Conference has set up a fund where people can donate their excess stimulus money and CPMC will work with our churches to get that money in the hands of congregations and individuals who have been hit hard by the pandemic. Checks can be earmarked, *COVID Relief Fund*, and mailed to the CPMC office (PO Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029-0101) or donations can be made online using the DONATE button on the bottom right of our webpage: www.centralplainsmc.org (be sure to include a special instruction on the PayPal page that directs the money to the COVID Relief Fund). A quick link to the application form for accessing this money is on the CPMC homepage at www.centralplainsmc.org.

Have the winter blues got you down? Are you looking for a creative outlet? Look no further! The second of three "**Creating Together: imaginative art as a spiritual practice**" webinars is coming up soon! Thursday, February 18, join a CPMC artist as they demonstrate an art technique and connect it to spirituality—then take a turn trying the new technique yourself! For more information about this and other upcoming webinars (and the Zoom links), visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

Community Connections

Cheese pocket work days Feb. 26-27: The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will be making cheese pockets for the upcoming Schmeckfest drive-thru on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27 in the FA dining hall. Volunteers are needed to help with prep work on Friday, Feb. 26 after 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 will be full day, starting at 9 a.m. Workers would be greatly appreciated and bring a friend. Whether you are a pro or someone new, come and learn how to make cheese pockets and enjoy a time of fellowship. To be responsible in keeping people safe, masks will be required. We ask that you bring your own snacks and sack lunch. If you are a person who is at risk or isn't feeling well, be safe and stay at home. Anyone who would prefer to make cheese pockets at home is encouraged to do so. Contact Kathy Kleinsasser, 925-7952 for more information.

Bakers needed for Schmeckfest drive-thru: Many of us are spending more time at home these days, so why not spend it in the kitchen and do some baking for the Schmeckfest drive-thru sale! The FA Auxiliary event will be held two weekends, March 19-20 and 26-27. Homemade ethnic food items would be appreciated for the sale and include the following popular items: fruit pockets, cheese pockets, poppy seed rolls, pumpkin rolls, summer savory and horseradish. Anyone willing to donate is asked to contact Sheila Epp, 605-951-2327, Skyla Dowden, 925-4191 or Deb Schmeichel, 648-3430. Watch for more information on the event in the coming weeks.

Can your kid help us out at **Et Cetera Shoppe**?? We are VERY low on children's clothing in sizes 5-18. Now through February 25, we're challenging all the kids out there to DONATE 8 – to bring us just 8 pieces of really nice clothing (other than T-shirts and shorts, please) that they no longer wear. When they do, we'll put their name in a drawing for 3 large bars of chocolate of their choice. Please consider helping us with this urgent need. We are open to receive your donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3.

Our Vision as Anabaptist Mennonite Believers in Christ:

“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

God's Love

“It's hard to throw stones when you are busy washing feet. Love like Jesus.”

- unknown author

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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Church Admin. Assistant:

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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

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