



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

March 22, 2020

**Show us, Jesus, how you define blindness**

*“One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” - John 9:25b*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome Nathan Epp, worship leader

Interlude – *Lenten Plainsong Melody* Christopher Uehlein

Call to Worship (from Psalm 23)

L: The Lord is our shepherd!

**P: We have everything we need.**

L: The Lord leads us beside peaceful waters and right paths, comforting us through the valleys of despair, and preparing for us a rich feast.

**P: We have more than we need.**

L: The Lord anoints us for healing, strengthening, gifting, and blessing.

**P: Our cups overflow with goodness and mercy.**

**ALL: We will live in the house of the Lord forever.**

Opening Prayer

## PRAISING GOD

Announcements

Offering our gifts – Mennonite Disaster Service

Offertory – *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* arr. Christopher Uehlein

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament I Samuel 16:1-13

Hearing the Gospel John 9:1-41

Sermon – “What do you see?” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Confession

*God, we confess that we are quick to judge others and not acknowledge our own sins and weaknesses. (silence)*

*God, we confess that we do not always follow your example because immorality, impurity, and greed are part of our lives. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes come from our lips. God, we need your light to shine on us to expose the things we say and do that are not pleasing to you. (silence)*

*God, Forgive us our sins.*

Assurance of Pardon

Song – *Just as I Am* (SJ #92) Rachel Miller

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude – *Wondrous Love* arr. Gerhard Kraft



*Show us,  
Jesus, how  
you define  
blindness*

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Jesus looks at inner attitudes, not external appearance. Whereas the church leaders were blind to their sins and judged others, the blind man only said, "I believe." As we gather for worship today in unusual ways, we are invited to say "I believe," so Jesus can show us where we are blind. Thank you for tuning into our worship.

**Organist:** Dan Graber

### THIS WEEK

No planned meetings or activities this week.

### NEXT SUNDAY – March 29

Next Sunday we continue the Lenten series "*Show Us*" and the focus is "*Show us your power over death itself.*" The scriptures are Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ps. 130, Romans 8:6-1, Jn. 11:1-45 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. We will not gather for public worship, but you will be able to listen online to the service.

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

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

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

- Paul Engbrecht learned last Monday that he has bone cancer. He will meet with his oncologist next week to determine treatment.

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

- Paul and Darlene as they navigate through these days of learning and discovering.
- all the people, places, and businesses that are experiencing struggle and challenge due to the coronavirus.
- everyone at Salem-Zion, as we try to faithfully follow Jesus in these challenging times.
- our country and the world as we figure out how to live well in this time of quarantine. We pray for those who are anxious, fearful, or lonely. We ask that God would give us wisdom and strength in these days.

### **Remember to thank God for:**

- all the care givers and helpers that have offered healing and hope to the people who are sick.
- the illuminating presence of the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes to God's truth.

### **Holy Week Services at Salem-Zion Mennonite cancelled for April 5-8:**

Because of our recent decision to use precaution in gathering for worship, we've had to cancel this year's Holy Week services with Rachel Miller Jacobs. We will try to provide some kind of a service online, or at least weekly readings and questions to ponder and pray over. The good news is that Rachel is willing to come next year as we will host Holy Week for our Mennonite churches in the Freeman community.

**Offerings during this season:** Even though we are not able to worship publicly together, it is still an important practice to give of our offerings to the ministries we have committed to. We will continue to follow our weekly offering schedule and encourage you to give toward these ministries. You can either send a check/cash in the mail to the church office (in care of the Treasurer), or if you want to do an online bill pay, you can check with your bank. Many ministries will especially need our support in these times, so we hope that our offerings may continue to be a tangible way of responding to God's generous love in our life.

**Doing Church Differently:** In compliance with the South Dakota and national health agencies recommendations, Salem-Zion will not be having any public worship services for the foreseeable future. We are working on making adjustments as we navigate through this difficult time. Funerals will have to be handled differently. Meetings may have to be done via ZOOM or through other means of technology. Presumably, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will also not be held for a public audience. We will continue to communicate with you through emails, letters and phone calls. We will continue to pray for each other. We will continue to be the church in this time.

**Voices Together Update:** In November of 2019 at the annual congregational meeting, we agreed to purchase the new hymnal *Voices Together*. In order to receive the available discounts, we had to indicate how many books we would purchase by December 1 and then pay for the balance by May 1. The balance is approximately \$8400.00, and a portion of this balance includes individual orders. Receipts for what you have ordered as well as the amount you owe will be sent to you via e-mail or mail. As a congregation, we still need to pay approximately \$7,400 to receive the full discounts available to us. The Administrative board has approved a loan from the organ and music fund to assure that the discount is received. Please help us achieve this goal soon. Please talk to anyone on the committee for information: Nancy Miller (chair), Austin Unruh, David Janssen, Mary Mannes, or Aidan Kesteloot. Thank you!

## Community Connections

*Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War*, a traveling exhibit by the Kaufman Museum, North Newton, KS, is on display at the Bethel Mennonite Church at Heritage Hall Museum & Archives in Freeman. This peace witness included men and women, religious believers and secular humanitarians, political protesters and sectarian separatists. They resisted U.S. involvement in the war, the enactment of military conscription, the war bond drives, and the denial of freedom of speech under the Espionage and Sedition Act. The exhibit runs from March 20 through April 26. A museum admission fee of \$8.00 adults/\$4.00 students (gr. 1-12) permits entrance to the exhibit and all museum property. *For the time being, the museum is open only by appointment. Please call ahead to schedule your visit. Also, please note that the Archives is closed until further notice.*

Since **Schmeckfest** has been postponed, it has been decided to sell some items that would normally be sold in the Country Kitchen. There will be a mini Country Kitchen at the Freeman Academy campus on Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21 and again on Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28 from 1:00-6:00. Since there are recommended restrictions on how many people can be in a space at one time, this will be a drive-up shop. Please check out Schmeckfest.com to see what is available for purchase. You can also drive up and fill out an order form for the items you want. In either case, someone will fill your order and bring it to your car. You will not be allowed to come into the building and pick out the items you want. Items must be picked up, they will not be shipped. Anyone wanting to offer food products that were made for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen may call Amy Waltner at 648-3772 or Kathy Kleinsasser at 925-7952 and schedule a time to deliver them. The sales event will follow the state recommended guidelines for safety from COVID 19.

### God's Peace during Lent

*"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us." - St. Teresa of Avila*

#### Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

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

corey.miller@gwtc.net

Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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#### Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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