



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

April 25, 2021
Easter Season

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Austin Unruh

Welcome and Call to Worship (VT #877) Beth Bontrager

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
L: enter our silences.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
L: into the depths of our longing.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
L: unmask our pretending.
Enter our trusting,
Enter our fearing,
Enter our letting go,
Enter our holding back.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
L: Embrace and free us.

Opening Prayer

Hymn – *As the Wind Song through the Trees* (Voices Together #373)
Chorister: Lacey Friesen

PROCLAIMING

Celebrating our Mission with Wellspring Wholistic Care Center

Sharing about SLCC Jerry Kroeker

Hearing the Scriptures Ruth 2:1-7

Song – *What wondrous love is this* (HWB #530)

Sermon – “Imitation Faith” Jerry Kroeker

RESPONDING

Sharing and Congregational Prayer Gwen Ortman

The Lord's Prayer

Sending Song – *Go, my children* (HWB #433)

Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Ruth has many things to teach us about loyalty and faithfulness. Today, we are grateful to have Jerry Kroeker speak to us and also share some news about Swan Lake Christian Camp. We are so glad that you are here.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *Wellspring Wholistic Care Center*.

9:00 a.m. – Zoom Adult Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. – Adult Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall
 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

THIS WEEK

Apr. 28 (Wed) - Faith From the Heart in the church parking lot
Apr. 29 (Thurs) - Outreach & Service Committee meeting at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – May 2

Next Sunday the Easter Season of worship continues. “Abide in Me” will be the theme and the texts are Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, I John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for our *Household Treasury*.

COMING EVENTS

May 2 – Baccalaureate Service for Freeman Public and Freeman Academy students at 4:00pm
May 9 – Outdoor Mother’s Day concert by Hesston College Bel Canto Singers at Salem-Zion at 4:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Pastor Corey and Nancy are participating in the virtual Pastor/Spouse retreat this weekend hosted by Central Plains Mennonite Conference.
 - Johnny Graber was admitted to the hospital last Friday and has spent a few days at Sanford doing tests. Johnny was able to come home on Wednesday.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.
 - our country. There are a myriad of emotions felt across this country regarding the jury’s recent guilty verdict of police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis. We know that many people feel relief and even joy in knowing that our judicial system does work. We also know that many feel pain and trauma from this trial and that more work needs to be done to provide justice and liberty for all. Lord, bring healing peace to this land.

- the families and communities all across the United States that are grieving losses because of gun violence. There have been countless shootings and horrific deaths in recent weeks. As we work and call for reform, we pray that God would forgive us of our lust for guns in this country and transform us to be people of peace.

- the pastors and spouses who are gathering this weekend virtually to hear each other's stories, and receive encouragement in this difficult season of ministry. Pray for Pastor Corey and Nancy, for strength, endurance, and faithfulness in the ministry.

- the work of the Outreach and Service Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We ask for wisdom and courage as they lead by example and encouragement into new ways of thinking about and doing God's just work in our ever-changing world.

Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA reflects on Justice in America this week: "There is work yet to be done. No, I am not satisfied with one murderer being found guilty. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice rolling through our cities and churches. I want the good cops to root out the bad cops. I call on systems of injustice to be abolished. But more than that, I want the people of MC USA to live into our call, to [#BringthePeace](#). I want more churches requesting [Justice Fund grants](#), flooding their communities with hope. I want people to educate themselves through our [abolition curriculum](#) and take positive actions. I want us to move past political ideologies that divide the church and corrupt the gospel. I want more. But most of all, I want my Black son and daughter to come home safely without the fear that some "bad apple" thinks they are judge, jury and executioner. The kind of justice I want is life." For Glen's entire response, read "*Unfillfilled: A Reaction to the Chauvin Guilty Verdict*" on Glen's Blog at mennonitechurchusa.org.

Health Update on Arlen Miller: Many of you continue to ask about how my dad is doing. Arlen continues to receive an infusion cancer treatment every four weeks. He does need pain meds to manage his pain, but he is able to drive out to the farm and work on some projects for a few hours of the day. He has enjoyed visits from friends, cards, books and music. It also takes energy from mom to be the caregiver in this season, so prayers for both Arlen and Florence are appreciated as they continue this journey together. They both have felt lifted up by your prayers during this time. Our whole family is so grateful for a loving and caring community of faith. Thank you. Pastor Corey.

I had a memorable 90th birthday. **Thank you** for all the cards, phone calls and good wishes. Blessings to all. - Ruby Waltner

Thank you for your prayers, cards, food and phone calls after my heart surgery at Sanford and my stay at Swingbed in Freeman. Special thanks to Pastor Corey

for his visits in Sioux Falls and Freeman. The power of prayer is amazing. I am getting along very well. - Elmer Gross

Caring and Sharing Meals: There are still several slots available for sharing a meal with Patrick and Laura Hofer. Follow the email link from April 14 to sign-up or call Lisa for assistance.

The **trustees are accepting bids** for the following positions: custodian, housekeeper, and groundskeeper. For more information on the jobs or to turn your bid in please contact one of the trustees by April 25th. Andre Eisenbeis, Kyle Waltner, Jon Graber, or Jay Penner

Central Plains Mennonite Conference **Annual Meeting** will take place in a virtual format on June 19 for worship, delegate sessions and workshops. The theme for this year's gathering will be "Together in God's Space: The Church as a Reconciling Presence." The deacons encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and become better acquainted with the work of the conference. Please contact one of the deacons if you are interested in this meeting.

Our annual **baccalaureate service** will be held for the glory of God and in honor of the 2021 high school graduates of Freeman Public and Freeman Academy. It will be held at the Freeman Community Center located at 224 S. Wipf Street, starting at **4pm on May 2nd**. The Freeman Ministerial hopes you will be able to join us for this important event in the lives of our graduates. The service will be live-streamed for those who will not be able to attend.

After a year of limited travel and performances, the **Bel Canto Singers from Hesston College** look forward to coming to South Dakota! Bel Canto will offer an outdoor concert on Sunday afternoon, **May 9, at 4 pm**. This concert could be held in the parking lot of the church. The choir will be traveling with all of their own sound and technical equipment, including the ability to listen on an FM radio station while in a vehicle. Those attending would be invited to bring lawn chairs/blankets or to stay in their cars.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet at 8:00 p.m. on April 26 in the Upper Meeting Room of the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. All are welcome to attend.

Spring Events at Freeman Academy: Find out more at FreemanAcademy.org
May 22 – Graduation

May 27 – Last day of School

Now Open – Faith and Leadership Scholarship applications. Encourage your youth leaders to apply for this special opportunity and the 40% tuition discount.

The April edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3elY7dd>. In our current issue: MDS is celebrating National Volunteer Week, the Homes of Hope facility in Ephrata, Penn. is almost completed and a royal thank you to MDS volunteers.

Youth Ministry Opportunity: Would you know someone in the Mennonite community here or beyond that might be a candidate for the Resident Director position at Freeman Academy? The RD supervises daily life for 10-12 dorm students including cooking the evening meal, coordinating student activities, and communicating with parents. Salary plus benefits: health insurance, retirement, room and board. We appreciate your candidate recommendations. Contact Nathan Epp, Head of School, nepp@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237.

Seeking God's Peace: *"God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you – but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."* - Micah 6:8

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

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p.m. and by appointment as requested

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