



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

April 5, 2020

**Show us how to balance celebration and grief**

*“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!” - Matthew 21:9*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp  
 Welcome Stacey Waltner  
 Call to Worship (from Psalm 118)  
 Congregational response: *“God’s Faithful Love Endures Forever”*

## PRAISING GOD

Hymn of Praise – *Hosanna, loud hosanna* HWB #238  
 Brass: Connor Epp  
 Offering Prayer – Household Treasury

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Gospel Matthew 21:1-11  
 Song – *Jesus is coming* (SS #73) Judy Graber & Rachel Miller  
 Hearing the Epistle Philippians 2:5-11  
 Meditation – *“Hopeful Expectation”* Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Confession *Kyrie eleison* (HWB #144)  
 Assurance of Pardon  
 Song – *I want Jesus to walk with me* HWB #439  
 Congregational Prayer  
 Benediction  
 Postlude



## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Along with the crowds, we praise Jesus for we have seen his works, but it so quickly turns this week to events that lead to his death. Longing to understand Jesus more deeply, we say, *“Show us how to both celebrate your life and honor your death.”* In these days of uncertainty and change, welcome to this time of worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is our **Household Treasury**. This offering helps to pay for the salaries of our staff at Salem-Zion. It also helps to pay for SS materials for our children. It pays for the propane bills (much less these days) and utilities. This offering (on April 5), is one of 12 offerings that we take to meet our budget. Please consider giving generously to our household treasury so that we can continue being the church.

### THIS WEEK

#### **Holy Week Scripture Readings**

Lisa will send out an email to everyone that includes the scripture texts that you are invited to read in this next week. In lieu of our normal Holy Week services, I would invite you to read these texts and pray these prayers at 7:00pm on Holy Week in your own homes. In doing so, we will continue the practice of engaging the scriptures together (even while we are apart). Reading these texts and praying these prayers will draw us together in Christ.

#### **Good Friday Service – April 10, 2020**

On Friday evening, we will provide a Good Friday service that will be live-streamed. The service will begin at 7:30pm and we invite you and your family to tune into the service. The service will include music, scriptures and communion. We are going to do something new in this new time: I am inviting you to gather 7 candles for you to assemble in your homes, along with some bread and juice. As I lead the service, I will invite you to join in extinguishing the candles and when I serve communion in the service, you will serve each other at home. In these days of changing, the church needs to keep finding creative ways to be the church and we trust that this will be a meaningful time of worship and reflection. We will be together, in spirit! Lisa will send you the link.

### NEXT SUNDAY – April 12

Next Sunday is Easter Sunday. While we feel deep sadness in not being able to worship together in person, we will claim Jesus’ Resurrection Hope through another live-streaming service at 10:30am. The focus is *“Show us your resurrection power and love.”* The scriptures are Acts 10:34-43, Ps.

118, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. Again, you will be sent a link to tune into the service.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

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

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

- Tomorrow (April 6), Paul Engbrecht will have an appointment to outline his treatment plan for his cancer.
- Ted and Diane Ellinger celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last Friday. Congratulations!!
- Marian Gering will turn 95 on Monday, April 6. Cards (609 S. Walnut, Freeman, SD 57029) and phone calls (925-7330) would be appreciated since Marian's family gathering won't happen.

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

- the upcoming Holy Week and the Good Friday service.
- all the health care workers, government officials and world leaders as they work together to combat Covid-19.
- all the families who have lost loved ones from Covid-19 and those whose lives are now hanging in the balance. Oh Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on us.

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

- Nathan Schrag, who has been offering his gear and his gifts in helping with our live-streaming services.
- Lisa Kaufman, whose steady work in the office helps keep communication flowing in this time.
- Our deacons, who had a ZOOM meeting last Wednesday to lift up people and places that need our prayers.
- All the ways that God's light and love are being shown by people these days.
- The fact that Jesus is Lord of all, and he continues to reveal himself to the entire cosmos.
- Christ's church everywhere as they gather as best as they can wherever they are, to worship God.

**Offerings during this season:** Thank you for your continued offerings that have been coming in the mail. All the ministries that we have committed to are really appreciative of the offerings that we have still received for their missional work. Please send your checks/cash to the church in the mail (in care of the Treasurer), and be sure to include in the memo where the money is to be given. May God be praised and glorified in our giving.

**Office Hours for staff during this season:** Because of the continued call for social distancing and staying at home, Lisa and Corey will not be keeping their normal office hours in the Covid-19 era. Fortunately, computers and cell phones allow them to be available at any time and they will be able to work from their homes. If you want to visit with pastor Corey, please call him on his cell phone. If you have a question for Lisa, she will get back with you. Also, we are having conversations about implementing some safety measures for our facility (disinfectant wipes to wipe down door handles, piano/organ, library usage policy, and general use of the facility). We all want to be safe and help to flatten the curve and we will try our best to communicate with you as we navigate through this season.

**Voices Together Update:** We are approximately one month from the date (May 1) when we need to pay for our *Voices Together* hymn books. The balance is approximately \$8,400.00, and a portion of this balance includes individual orders. Thank you for all who have contributed to this important resource that will shape our worship for years to come. Let's finish this commitment by giving generously to *Voices Together*.

The **trustees are accepting bids** for one housekeeper, one janitor, and one groundskeeper. Please contact any member of the trustees for more information. Bids are due April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**March Offerings and Gifts:** Household Treasury - \$6,868.75; *Voices Together* - \$1,604.93.

**March Household Treasury Report** – Income: \$6,879.89; Expenses: \$13,331.90; Balance: \$3,210.95.

## **Community Connections**

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**Heritage Hall Museum & Archives** is closed until further notice. We are working to reschedule the "Voices of Conscience" traveling exhibit and programming to a later date. Thanks for your understanding and your continued support during these uncertain times!

### **A Peace Prayer for those who are ill or facing great uncertainty**

*God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.*

*Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.*

*Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.*

**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.  
(605) 925-7771 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

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