



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

May 16, 2021
Ascension Day

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Die Tapferkeit* (Telemann, arr. van Beringen)

Solomon Ortman, French horn

Divertimento in Bb (Mozart, arr. Bellison)

Estelle Waltner, clarinet

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 47)

Janelle Ortman

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P: God has ascended with shouts of triumph, and trumpet fanfare!

L: Our God is exalted on high, Sovereign over all the nations, and Lord of our lives.

P: Let us worship together the One who was and is and is to come!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *All hail the power of Jesus' name* (HWB #106)

Choristers: Austin & Lindsey Unruh

PROCLAIMING

Celebrating our Mission with Student Tuition Sharing Fund

Children's Story

Beth Bontrager

Special Music – *Spica* (VanderCook)

Christian Ortman, trumpet

Hearing the Scriptures

Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23

Song – *Although Our Lord Has Left Us* (VT #366)

* Hearing the Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

Sermon – "Power"

Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Steve Graber

* Sending Song – *Move in our midst* (HWB #418)

* Benediction

Postlude – *Russian Hymn* (Vincent)

Joshua Janssen, trumpet

Keyboardist: Sherilyn Ortman

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

The Ascension of Jesus was bittersweet for the disciples. On the one hand, it was hard to say goodbye to someone they had known and loved. On the other hand, the promised Holy Spirit would soon be coming for empowered ministry. We gather today with our own bittersweet feelings about life, about relationships and even about faith. We are so glad to be able to worship our living and loving God who is always with us. Welcome!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the ***Student Tuition Sharing Fund***.

We are grateful to Solomon Ortman, Estelle Waltner, Christian Ortman and Joshua Janssen for sharing several instrumental selections they prepared for the recent elementary music contest.

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

Wednesday – Baptismal Candidates Meeting with Deacons Meeting at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – May 23

Next Sunday we celebrate **Pentecost Sunday** and the birth of Christ's church! The texts are Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21, and John 15:26-27; 16:12-15. Pastor Corey will be preaching and three young people will be baptized and welcomed into the church! We will also celebrate communion on this special day.

Offering next Sunday will be for ***Mennonite Central Committee***.

COMING EVENTS

May 23 – Pentecost and Baptism Service at Salem-Zion Mennonite

May 31-June 4 – Summer Bible School at South Church

June 19 – Central Plains Mennonite Conference (virtually). We are still seeking delegates from Salem-Zion.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Johnny Graber was able to return back to his home on Tuesday.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Dorothy Preheim.

- Timothy Epp, Connor Epp, Jada Koerner and Blake Van Ningen who will

be baptized and affirmed in their faith in Christ next Sunday. These four young people will share their testimonies with the deacons this week.

- peace in the Middle East. The recent violence between Israel and Palestine is an ancient conflict but this week military attacks claimed the lives of innocent people, including 17 children. Lord, have mercy.

- the high school graduates of Freeman, Marion and Freeman Academy schools this week. While we don't have any graduating seniors at Salem-Zion this year, we pray for those who are experiencing this accomplishment.

- the Board of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We pray for wisdom and courage as they discern the best ways for Conference to continue supporting and encouraging and resourcing each local congregation for ministry.

The Covid-19 Task Team has made a few changes to the safety guidelines about our gathering for public worship.

1. Use of nursery: The nursery is open to use as families are comfortable with. Sanitizer and alcohol wipes will be supplied for cleaning.

2. Children's Time During Worship: Children may come to the front benches if parents are comfortable with that. We encourage the children to wear a mask and not sit close together.

3. Singing: We know everyone is anxious to start singing as a congregation and we look forward to that time. The Covid-19 Task Team will continue discerning more participation from the congregation with safety in mind and guidance from the CDC.

4. For the time being we will continue to use the seating arrangement in the sanctuary and encourage you to wear a mask when entering and leaving the church building.

With positive Covid-19 numbers decreasing locally and the availability of the vaccine we will continue to make changes as they seem appropriate. We realize there continues to be varying opinions on practices and we ask for your prayers and grace as we work through these challenging times together. You are welcome to share your thoughts and questions with the Covid-19 Task Team. Janette Epp, Mark Ortman, Nancy Miller, Jay Penner, Paul Ortman, Corey Miller.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference - Delegates are still needed for the Annual Meeting which will take place in a virtual format on June 19. The theme for this year's gathering will be "Together in God's Space: The Church as a Reconciling Presence". There will also be an opportunity to participate in several workshops. More information is available on the CPMC website or contact one of the deacons.

Mennonite Mission Network exists to equip and empower the church as we partner in God's mission around the globe. Thank you, Salem-Zion Mennonite, for your gift of \$8,286.54 in 2020! Your prayers, participation and generous

financial support empower us to bring inspiration and innovation to the church and our partners across the street and around the world, so that people of all cultures may be transformed by Jesus Christ. - Mike Sherrill

Minutes from the March deacon meeting are available in the narthex.

Starting this week, the Zoom link for Adult Sunday School (<https://zoom.us/j/97667382194?pwd=NHNieHZ6a29ZMGpZSHJpczlibUxtdz09; Meeting ID: 976 6738 2194; Passcode: 523139>) and the livestream link for Sunday morning worship (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX8KyFIZChK0Ef-rIBAAaS3A>) will be available with the bulletin instead of e-mailed each Saturday. These **links** will remain the same each week.

In celebration of the upcoming wedding of **Vanessa Hofer and Hans Weaver**, we would like to have a money-card shower for the couple. Vanessa and Hans are getting married June 5 in New Holland, PA and will have a Freeman reception later in the summer. You may give your money gift to Kelsey Pidde by putting it in an envelope in her mailbox at church or sending it to her mailing address (PO Box 102, Freeman SD 57029). There is a card by the Mennonite Women bulletin board for you to sign, or Kelsey can sign your name.

Community Connections

MCC Central States COVID-19 update: We look forward to re-opening the MCC office in North Newton on July 6. Please keep us in your prayers as we consider our protocols, processes and capacity. Material resources donations continue to be accepted in the 24-hour donation room. Financial donations can be made at mcc.org, mailed to the office (MCC Central States PO BOX 235 North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off by appointment. Please call the MCC office at 316-283-2720 with any questions. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

Living God's Peace in our Journey:

"Some journeys are direct, and some are circuitous; some are heroic, and some are fearful and muddled. But every journey, honestly undertaken, stands a chance of taking us toward the place where **our deep gladness meets the world's deep need.** - Parker J. Palmer

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman
(605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net
Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

