



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

May 2, 2021
Abide In Me

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – Four Chorale Miniatures on

"For the Beauty of the Earth" (Setting by Michael Burkhardt)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Malynda Penner

L: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

P: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

L: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

P: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

L: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

P: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

L: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator,
Redeemer, Sustainer.

ALL: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

Opening Prayer

Hymn – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (HWB #37)

Child Dedication – Magnus Robert Ellinger, son of Jeffrey Ellinger and
Joanne Orfei, born December 17, 2019

PROCLAIMING

Celebrating our Mission with Household Treasury

Children's Story

My Coins Count

Corey Miller

* Hearing the Gospel

John 15:1-8

Song – *O Blessed Spring* (VT #522)

Hearing the Scriptures

Acts 8:26-40

Sermon – "Bearing Fruit"

Corey Miller

RESPONDING

Affirming the call to love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

*If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected
in us. (from I John 4:7ff)*

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sending Song – *Thou true Vine, that heals* (HWB #373)

Benediction

Postlude – *All Creatures of Our God and King* (Arr. by Benjamin Dunford)

Music provided by Mavis and Mory Ortman

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus is the True Vine that longs for all branches to be vitally connected to his life-giving source. As we ponder this timeless tree/vine image, we are invited to "*abide in Christ.*" As we worship today, may our joy be complete. We are so glad that you are here.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for our **Household Treasury**.

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

TODAY - Baccalaureate Service for Freeman Public and Freeman Academy students at 4:00pm at the Freeman Community Building. If you cannot attend, the link for the service is: <https://youtu.be/roHw259zHL0>

THIS WEEK

May 5 (Wed) - 6pm Faith from the Heart will meet in the church parking lot (check email for details)!

NEXT SUNDAY – May 9

Next Sunday we celebrate the gift of our Mothers. The texts are Proverbs 31:10-30 and Matthew 12:46-50. Several special things will be happening in this service and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

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

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 will 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.

COMING EVENTS

May 9 – Outdoor Mother's Day concert by Hesston College Bel Canto Singers at Salem-Zion at 4:00pm

May 10 – Administrative Board meeting at 7:30pm

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Johnny Graber was admitted to the Freeman hospital last weekend and has been working on regaining strength.
- Clara Graber was admitted to the Freeman hospital early last Sunday with some heart issues. She was able to return home on Wednesday afternoon.
- Gabriel Eisenbeis finished his term of Voluntary Service with the MCC Meat Canner last Friday. He will return home for a short while before he begins a new chapter. We thank God for Gabriel's service to Christ and the church in helping to feed those who are hungry.
- Janice Stahl (wife of Dr. Pete Stahl) died on April 27th in Sioux Falls after being on hospice care for some time. A funeral service was held on Saturday at Salem-Zion and the burial happened at the Salem-Zion cemetery.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Virginia Graber.
- Johnny and Clara as they strive to recover from their recent hospitalizations.
- the Baccalaureate Service this afternoon for our youth and parents.
- for Jeffrey Ellinger and Joanne Orfei as they raise their son Magnus together.
- our farmers as they fully enter the planting season.
- the people of India, who have endured unspeakable losses in recent weeks due to Covid.
- the work of the Christian Formation Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We pray for wisdom and courage as they help us to be intentional and to think theologically about Christian formation for all ages.

The rose on the organ is in honor of **Magnus Ellinger**.

The **May newsletter** was sent as an attachment with this week's e-mailed bulletin. Hard copies are available in the narthex, as well.

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.

Seeking God's Peace:

"If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it means to be human, look at Jesus. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what grief is, look at Jesus. And keep looking until you're no longer a spectator but part of His grand story." - N.T. Wright

