



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

May 3, 2020

Seeing and Believing

“Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God.” - John 20:28

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Blessed Jesus, at your word* (David Cherwien) Ken Mannes

Welcome David Janssen

Call to Worship (from Psalm 133 Message)

L: How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!

P: It’s like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard,

L: Flowing down Aaron’s beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

P: It’s like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion.

L: Yes, that’s where GOD commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.

Prayer of Invocation

PRAISING GOD

Hymn of Praise – *Holy God, we praise thy name* HWB #121

Offering Prayer – Household Treasury

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament I Peter 1:8-12

Special Music – *Psalm 145* (Antonín Dvořák) Ken Mannes

Hearing the Gospel John 20:24-31

Sermon – “Thomas Believes” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Special Music – *Psalm 23* (Antonín Dvořák) Ken Mannes

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude – *We know that Christ is raised* (David Cherwien)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Thomas invites us to worship with whatever kind of faith we have. If you have questions, you are welcome here. If your faith is a work in progress, you are welcome here. If you sometimes even have doubts, you are welcome here. We are so glad that you have tuned in.

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

The household treasury pays the utilities, buys Sunday school materials, handles the fuel bills, and allows us to hire a pastor, a grounds-keeping person, a custodian, a housekeeper, an administrative assistant, and a treasurer. Your generous giving to the household treasury helps us to join in with God’s mission at work in the world. Thank you for giving.

Today – At 4:00pm, the Freeman Ministerial Association will broadcast live from Bethany Church the Baccalaureate Service for the graduating seniors from Freeman Public and Freeman Academy. You will be able to watch this live on channel 90 at 4:00pm and the service will also be posted on YouTube. We are celebrating our seniors as best as we can this year!

THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Pastor Corey ZOOM meeting with the S-Z children at 7:00pm.

NEXT SUNDAY – May 10

Next Sunday the season of Easter continues. The theme is “*Joyous Disbelief*” and the text is Luke 24:36-49. Pastor Corey will be preaching at the live-streaming service.

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Helen Tieszen continues her recovery from the coronavirus at the Samaritan Home in Sioux Falls.
- Leora Ortman’s health declined rather quickly on Monday and she is resting comfortably at Oakview Terrace.
- Ashlyn Benjamin had her last day of high school at Freeman Public on Friday.

Remember to pray for:

- Helen Tieszen as she recovers from COVID-19.
- Leora Ortman as she nears the end of her earthly life. Let us pray that God will continue to hold Leora in love.

- all those who struggle with doubts, with relentless questions and uncertainties in their relationship with God and Christ's church.
- wisdom as we try to understand what the "new normal" is as the world slowly begins to open up again.
- Pastor Nick and Erika Detweiler-Stoddard, Eli, Jace and Luke as they spend their final week in Freeman. Saying heartfelt goodbyes while maintaining social distancing isn't an easy task. Pray for this family as they pack their belongings and transition to their new community in Washington, Iowa.
- anyone going through a life transition like retirement, graduation, anniversary, etc. without the opportunity to share that transitional change with the normal cultural norms and support of their community.
- the work of the Pastoral Leadership Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We pray for wisdom and courage as they develop and walk alongside both new and experienced pastoral leaders.

Remember to thank God for:

- the miracle of seeds and soils, birds and buds as God's incredible world springs to life in this spring season.
- the opportunities we have had to pray, spend time with our family, and listen to God's created world in this season of isolation.

When will we worship again at Salem-Zion? With some social distancing restrictions lifting, many are wondering when we will be able to worship at Salem-Zion. In the past week, I've had conversations with conference ministers addressing this question and next week, the Freeman ministers will ZOOM with Dr. Kirton to address this question as well. In short, there is no easy answer and realistically the "re-entry" to congregational worship may happen in gradual steps rather than all of us being together in worship like we were on March 8th. The leadership at Salem-Zion will closely monitor our situation here, and work to prayerfully discern how we will move ahead in our congregational life together, without jeopardizing anyone's health. For the foreseeable future, Salem-Zion will continue providing live-streaming worship services at 10:30am on Sunday mornings in the month of May.

It is time to share your love by providing a meal for **Ladonna Waltner** who is recovering from hip surgery. Please look for the email, sent this past Monday, about sharing meals and follow the link to sign up (one slot remains open). Those not comfortable with computers can call Lisa. People are encouraged to clearly label all containers to be returned.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference has made the decision to cancel the in-person annual meeting. Alternative arrangements are being made to have a **condensed delegate session via Zoom** on June 20, 2020 to worship and

engage in brief business actions virtually. Salem-Zion is allowed 6 delegates and one youth delegate. The deacons encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to become better acquainted with the leadership and work of the conference. (This can be done without traveling and in the comfort of your home or office.) Please contact one of the deacons, Janette Epp, Beth Epp, David Janssen, Steve Graber or Stacey Waltner if you are willing to participate in this meeting.

Due to the fact that the SD MCC Relief Sale has been canceled for 2020, here is an **UPDATE** from the relief sale board:

- **My Coins Count** will still take place this year so keep saving those coins! Watch for details as to how and when they will be collected. Please note that there will be a special gift from MCC for participating children.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** approximately 6 items will be offered for auction by sealed bidding. Bidding forms with pictures and details of the items will be available in your church, website and local Freeman Courier newspaper in June. Your one bid on an item will be your only bid on that item – no raising bids.
- A **special offering** for MCC will be received on July 12 (if we are having services by then, if not other arrangements will be made) to support the work of MCC. **Blessing bid project opportunities** will be available in your bulletin or mailbox so that you can contribute, through this offering, as you have in the past.
- The relief sale plans to return next year on July 10.

Many relief sales have had to cancel this year and thrift shops have been closed for an extended time period. This is a serious revenue loss for MCC so we ask that you please consider how you might give so MCC programs can continue to be funded. Thank you. - SD MCC Relief Sale Board

April Mission Fund Offerings and Gifts: Central Plains Mennonite Conference - \$1,305.00; Mennonite Disaster Service - \$820.00; Freeman Academy - \$795.00; Mennonite Church USA - \$265.00; Wellspring Wholistic Care Center - \$285.00.

April Household Treasury Report – Income: \$10,623.79; Expenses: \$9,653.84; Balance: \$3,455.89.

Voices Together: Towards the end of last year, we as a worship committee made the recommendation to the church to purchase the new hymnal Voices Together to further enhance worship at Salem-Zion. At the time, we had no idea what would lie ahead and how the world would change in the first few months of 2020. The church has committed to our purchase and paid for the

balance due through donations from church members, the music fund, and the youth group. We are so grateful for the contributions made by everyone so far. The difference between the cost and the funds raised is being covered with additional money from the music fund. We as a worship committee are committed to continue to raise money to replenish these additional funds to the music fund. However, given the tough financial times with uncertainty for many of us regarding jobs, farming markets, and economic security for our families, we ask that people make sure to consider their own immediate needs and the needs of our vital institutions in our community. We will continue to gladly accept donations for the Voices Together project, and will look for opportunities to connect with you more when our lives have returned to a more normal condition. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and contributions to our church community through participation in live streamed services, your thoughts and prayers, and financial support. We all look forward to the day when we can gather together once again to raise our voices together to worship at Salem-Zion! - SZ Worship Committee

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. If you want to visit with Corey or Lisa, call their cell phone or send an email and they will get back with you. You will also notice that there is a small table in the foyer with disinfectant on it along with instructions. We want to make sure our facility helps to flatten the curve.

Community Connections

Crisis agencies and our shelters in our state need **face masks** for their staff and residents. These services are essential services. Please help make masks. Here's a link to a mask pattern that a nonprofit in Spearfish is developing in consultation with Monument Health to stock their hospitals: <http://makespacesd.org/N95FilterCoverTutorialv2-1.pdf>

There may be other patterns as well. Please make masks and we can let you know where to send them. Contact Krista at krista@sdnafvsa.com for more information.

God's Peace Cares About Justice: If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. - Desmond Tutu

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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