



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

August 30, 2020

“The Spirit Outpoured at Sea”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Sonata, Op. 65 No. 3* (Mendelssohn) Sherilyn Ortman

First movement: *Con moto maestoso*

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 46) Paul Ortman

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

P: Therefore, we will not fear.

L: Even when the earth changes and the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

P: Even when its waters roar and foam and the mountains tremble with tumult,

ALL: We will not fear!

L: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.

P: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

ALL: We will not fear!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *My hope is built on nothing less* (HWB #343)

Choristers: Judy Graber & Hannah Miller

Celebrating God’s Mission – Mennonite Church USA

Children’s Story Elizabeth Janssen

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament Acts 27:13-20

Song – *Here I am* (SJ #100)

Hearing the New Testament Acts 27:27-38

Meditation – “Finding God in the Storm” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Song – *My life flows on* (HWB #580)

Communion

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song Outside – *Praise God from whom*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Praise God from whom all blessings flow; in heav’n above and earth below; one God three persons we adore. To God be praise forevermore.

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Adult Zoom Sunday School (9:00-9:50 a.m.): We are studying Faith and Wisdom in James this week: “Two Kinds of Wisdom.” The background scriptures for August 30 are James 3:13-18; 5:7-11. To join the class, follow the link sent out on Saturday.

In today's prelude, Mendelssohn juxtaposes a regal opening and closing section against a minor, tormented setting of Martin Luther's chorale tune, "Aus tiefer not." Translated "Out of the depths," the tune (HWB #133) is often associated with Lent. We don't know what personal "depths" Mendelssohn may have been facing--one source observes that the composition corresponds to the beginning of deteriorating physical health--but the title evoked for me the literal watery depths faced by the crew of the ship in today's scripture. - Sherilyn Ortman

This morning we finish our summer series on the book of Acts by being in a storm with Paul out on the sea. Seeing and knowing God’s presence, even in the midst of a storm, takes faith. Whether the waves are threatening or the sailing is calm, welcome to this time of worship, where God most certainly is present. We are glad you have decided to join us.

As we prepare for communion today, everyone who loves Jesus and earnestly wants to follow Jesus, is welcome to the table.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**. Jason Boone is the coordinating minister of the Peace and Justice Support Network of MC USA. Jason says, “*I believe strongly that peace and justice is not the calling for a few, but rather a lifestyle Jesus equipped everyone to participate in. To do the work of Jesus, we have to be connected to Jesus, allowing the Spirit to refresh, sustain and inspire us.*” We give joyfully to our denomination as it continues Jesus’ peace making ways in the world through people like Jason Boone.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 3 – Outreach & Service Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 6 – Sunday school will be offered for all ages. Join us if you are able.

Sept. 14 – Administrative Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – September 6

Next Sunday we will begin a new series called “*Roadsigns and Guideposts*”, which will reflect on the message of Jeremiah for our day and time. The theme is **Hearing a Call**. The scripture text will be Jeremiah 1:1-10 and Pastor Corey will preach.

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Beth Epp's father, Leland John Sawtell, passed away last week. His memorial service was held on Saturday, August 29th in Newcastle, NE.
- We wrapped up our summer series "Visions and Dreams" by reading and reflecting on our 14 most important scripture texts for Salem-Zion. Another study or series is being thought about. More information will be found in the bulletin.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Duane & LaVonne Schrag.
- Beth Epp and her family as they both grieve over their father's and grandfather's death and also as they celebrate a faithful life lived. Lord, hear our prayers.
- our schools, the faculty, staff and students, as they make adjustments in this new school year.
- Meranda Van Ningen as she anticipates reconstructive surgery on her knee to repair a torn ACL, MCL and meniscus. Her surgery will be on September 2nd.
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us--and may we be willing to heed God's call.

Remember to thank God for:

- all the ways God has been present with us, even in difficult storms.
- our health, our physical, mental and spiritual well-being during this Covid season.
- the fruits of produce that still come from gardens and fruit trees even during this dry spell.
- Helen Tieszen as she celebrates her 93rd birthday today, August 30.

The Selection Committee is compiling the **Fall selection ballot**. If you no longer wish to serve in a certain position please let one of the committee members know by Sept. 6th. Clara Graber, Sheila Epp, or Tim Graber.

Feedback for Offerings: Please take time to prayerfully look over the insert that shares about our offering schedule for this year. Additional copies are available in the narthex if you did not get one last Sunday. The deacons want your feedback in helping to set next year's offering schedule. Thank you.

Fostering Biblical Imagination: Last weekend, our conference ministers encouraged all CPMC congregations to continue "*fostering Biblical imagination*." We were reminded that the Biblical narratives reveal a God who is active and involved in bringing God's shalom, God's peace and restoration, especially in times of trials or difficulties. How can we grow in

fostering Biblical imagination in our life, ministry and witness at Salem-Zion?

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a **thank-you card** from Bienvenidos a Brookings.

The study of "**Christ in Crisis....why we need to reclaim Jesus**", written by Jim Wallis, will begin again next Sunday, September 6. We will be looking at Chapter 2, "*The Neighbor Question*". Please read Luke 10:25-37 and Chapter 2 in our book before coming to class.

Your Board of Education has made plans to re-open **Sunday School** in person for both children and adults on Sept 6, for those who feel ready and confident doing so. These plans are subject to change, depending on the status of COVID-19 spread in our area. We plan to have one class for adults in the Fellowship Hall, with Gloria Graber leading the elective study of Christ in Crisis (Jim Wallis). All are welcome, including those who did not sign up initially or join in back in March for the first few sessions. We will also continue the current adult class by ZOOM, using the quarterly series, now titled *Salt & Light*. Carol Duerksen is the writer of the fall quarter entitled *Joining God: Relationship and Worship*. This is open to all and quarterlies are available in the narthex. To join this class, just follow the link sent out each Saturday. If neither of these appeals to you, we urge you to organize your own study group, in-person or otherwise. For those wishing to join the Sunday School class via ZOOM but have trouble doing so due to insufficient equipment or know-how, contact Tim Eisenbeis, your incoming superintendent. He will be recruiting a few tech-savvy members and will forward you to someone who can help remove the limitations in your situation. – S-Z Board of Education

Church office: Lisa will be in the church office on Thursday mornings and by appointment as requested. Feel free to reach her by cell phone or e-mail throughout the rest of the week.

God's Peace on the other side of the virus: "The prophetic promise does not include a return to "the good old days" or a restoration of a previous political-economic arrangement under an oppressive royal regime. The phrase rather intends a return to the land of promise that will be ordered, organized, and lived out in freshly faithful ways. God's "restoration" is characteristically toward a new historical possibility through the giving of new gifts. This God has the capacity to restore, recover, and revivify! This the God of homecoming after there was displacement. – Walter Brueggemann, *Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief and Uncertainty*

Offering Schedule Ideas for 2021

Dear friends at Salem-Zion,

The deacons are tasked with putting together an offering schedule that fits our vision for ministry at Salem-Zion Mennonite. We are so appreciative of all the giving that has happened in this past year, especially with the challenges brought on by the coronavirus.

As a way of seeking input from the congregation, the deacons are inviting you to offer some feedback on the offerings so the deacon's proposal can most fully represent Salem-Zion's interests and needs.

In the outline below, you can see how the offering schedule looked for January-December 2020:

- ***Household Treasury** – 12 offerings
- ***Central Plains Mennonite Conference** – 10 offerings
- ***Mennonite Church USA** – 8 offerings
- ***Deacon Sharing Fund** – 3 offerings
- ***FA, Student Tuition Sharing Fund, SLCC**– 2 offerings
- ***Salem Home, MDS, Wellspring, MCC, Service and Mission Fund, SD MCC Relief Sale, Christian Peacemaker Teams, The Banquet, AMBS, Mennonite Mission Network, MCC Meat Canning** – 1 offering.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or even brainstorms, please contact deacon chair **Janette Epp** (ljepp@hotmail.com) over the next two weeks as we look at formulating an offering proposal that will be shared with the Ad Board at their September meeting and ultimately with the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting in November.

Thank you again, for your joyful, faithful and generous giving to these life-giving ministries that we are so blessed to support. Through these gifts, we are making a difference in the world and glorifying God!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Corey