



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

September 13, 2020

“Abandoning God”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sherilyn Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 103) Nathan Epp

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul and all that is within me!

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –

L: Who forgives all your iniquity and heals all your diseases.

P: Who redeems your life from the Pit, and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

ALL: We will bless the LORD with our lives, witness and worship. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *Come, thou fount* (HWB #521) Chorister: Josh Hofer

Celebrating God’s Mission – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Children’s Story Susan Schrag

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Jeremiah 3:6-10, 19-20

Song – *Oh, Lord have mercy* (SJ#47)

* Hearing the Gospel Luke 11:37-44

Sermon – “Turning and Returning” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Confession: (copyright Carol Penner, used by permission)

L: You are the God who hears: hear our prayer today for all who lament or repent. For those among us who face discrimination every day because of their skin color,

P: We lament.

L: For those among us with white skin who benefit from racist systems sometimes even without realizing it,

P: We repent.

L: For those among us who have struggled and waited so long for the Promised Land of freedom and equality,

P: We lament.

L: For those among us who have acted in racist ways and have hurt people of color,

P: We repent.

L: For those protesting injustice who face police brutality and a justice system rigged against them,

P: We lament.

L: For those who think racism is someone else’s problem, and not a problem for humanity,

P: We repent.

L: God of hope, show us how to work for justice together, standing up for what is right, stepping in when something’s wrong, shouldering each other’s burdens, holding each other accountable, righting the wrongs we’ve done, speaking truth to power.

P: We pray for change, lasting change, for protection for protesters, for a de-escalation of violence and for government leaders who listen. Deliver us from evil, within and without, in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Song – *Lord Jesus, think on me* (HWB #527)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer Steve Graber

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

Abandonment is such a strong and lonely word, but it is a word that is a part of Israel’s history with God. Jeremiah invites both Judah and us today, to return back to God. What a blessing it is to know that God’s mercy is always before us. Welcome to worship!

Sunday School for all ages – 9:30 a.m. Join us if you are able.

(Zoom Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.)

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**. Did you know that conference minister Susan Janzen meets every other week with CPMC pastors via ZOOM to check in, share, envision, encourage and pray. We are so grateful to be a part of a dynamic, faithful and envisioning conference!

THIS WEEK

Monday – Administrative Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the church

NEXT SUNDAY – September 20

Next Sunday we will continue our series on “Road signs and Guideposts” in Jeremiah. The theme is “**Prophetic Actions.**” The scripture text will be from Jeremiah 13 and 19 and Pastor Corey will preach.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Mennonite Church USA.**

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Ruth Preheim died on Wednesday and her service was on Sept. 12 at the South Church. Ruth was D'Wayne Preheim's mother.
- Betty Albrecht recently moved to the Dewald Apartments in Freeman. She is in room 10.
- Allen and Mary Schmidt recently moved into the Dewald Apartments. They are in room 5.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- the firefighters that are working so hard in California and Oregon to contain the fires.
- Central Plains congregations that are in the midst of pastoral searches. Pray for search committees and for candidates looking for churches, that God may guide the search process according to God's will.

Remember to thank God for:

- the refreshing and renewing fall rain that we were blessed with this past week.

Salem-Zion Connects with Caring Cards: In an attempt to help people feel and know care from each other, Pastor Corey is inviting you to a **Caring Card Blitz**. He imagines the joy of everyone writing a card to another SZ person and also receiving one as well. Each SZ person/family will receive an email (or a letter) with the name of the person or family that you are invited to write a note to. The names are randomly selected. The card doesn't have to be long and you may not know the person well. Just try and offer some words to bless or encourage that person/family. We are asking that you provide the cards, envelopes and stamps and to involve your whole family! In return, someone will also be working on sending you a card as well. We are limiting this exercise to the SZ attendees/members who live in the general area of our community. I encourage us to do this **Caring Card Blitz** in the month of September and your "assignment" will be sent out next week! I look forward to hearing how our lives are blessed and drawn together through this practice. Who knows what may grow out of this?

A **thank-you card** from Cornerstones is posted in the narthex: "Thank you so much for your continued support of our program. I know Diane is very excited to meet students face-to-face (from a distance and in a mask) again! We greatly appreciate all you have done to support English classes in Freeman." - Nakita Maddox, Program Coordinator

Contributing to the Dennis Schrock Memorial: Because of the many ways that Dennis Schrock has blessed our church, the deacons are going to send a

financial gift to Marcia from their deacon sharing fund. You are invited to also contribute to Marcia in her time of need. Write your checks out to **Salem-Zion Mennonite** and write in "*Marcia Schrock gift*" in the memo. If you want to contribute to the Dennis Schrock Memorial (which goes to Freeman Academy), you can again write out your checks to Salem-Zion and write "*Dennis Schrock Memorial - FA*" in the memo. We will run this for a few Sundays and after Lacey has collected all the gifts that come in, she will write out two checks and give them the Schrock family. May God's healing and hope flow through us to this grieving family. - the Deacons

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group: If you are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other dementia and feel as though no one understands what you are going through, a Caregiver Support Group is available. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Grace Lutheran Church (Menno) and will be lead by Pastor Theresa Jacobson and Chaplain Betty Janke. A flier is posted on the bulletin board. To RSVP or ask any questions, contact Pastor Theresa (605)387-5196, or Chaplain Betty (605) 387-5490.

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.

Mennonite Central Committee invites you join **Celebration 2020: MCC at 100**, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 6:50 p.m. (EDT). The event will feature photos, videos and storytelling that highlight MCC's work over the years. Former MCC leader and pastor Leonard Dow of Philadelphia will inspire participants to walk boldly into the next century of MCC's ministry while talented musicians will lead in prayer and thanksgiving. You can find more information about MCC's centennial and log in for the livestreamed event at mcc.org/celebration-2020.

Register NOW for the **MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride!** Due to COVID-19, the ride is a "virtual" event this year and open to EVERYONE. Riders may register any time until September 29 at Bikereg.com. Join us in raising money for MCC to fund the construction of new wells and repair existing water and sanitary systems at schools in Nicaragua. Donations from non-riders are welcome! Checks to MCC Flatlander Bike Ride may be sent to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

The Peace of Christ: "The peace that Jesus gives is never engineered by circumstances on the outside." - Oswald Chambers

