



*Thanksgiving
Worship
Service*

at
Salem-Zion
Mennonite Church

Thursday
November 27
2025



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church
“Thanksgiving Day Worship”
November 27, 2025
10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude – *Sinfonia from Cantata 29, We Thank You God, We Thank You*
(J.S. Bach) Ken Mannes
- Choral Call to Worship – *We Praise Thee O God* (arr. Kliever) Men’s Choir
- Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 92) Corey Miller
- L: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
O Most High,
- P: to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness
by night,**
- L: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
- P: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;**
ALL: at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Prayer of Invocation

- * Singing our Praise–*Come, Ye Thankful People* (last verse in unison) VT #123
- Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Lacey Friesen
- Offering – MCC Meat Canner
- Offertory – *Now Thank We All Our God* (arr. Paul Manz)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Ecclesiastes 3:9-20
- Thanksgiving Testimony Dennis Herlyn
- Anthem – *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* (arr. W. Ortman) Men’s Choir
- Hearing the New Testament Colossians 1:24-2:7
- Sermon – “Gratitude for the Giver” Pastor Spencer Bradford

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

- * Response Song – *Now Thank We All Our God* VT #114
- Congregational Prayer (from Psalm 136)

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

- * Sending Song – *Sing to the God of Harvest* VT #122
- * Benediction
- * Choral Benediction – *The Blessing of Aaron* (arr. Rodby) Men’s Choir
- Postlude – *Praise to the Lord* (Johann Walther)

Responsive Scripture Reading from Psalm 136

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

O give thanks to the God of gods,

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who alone does great wonders,

who by understanding made the heavens,

who spread out the earth on the waters,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who made the great lights,

the sun to rule over the day,

the moon and stars to rule over the night,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who struck Egypt through their firstborn,

and brought Israel out from among them,

with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who divided the Red Sea in two,

and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who led his people through the wilderness,

who made water flow from the rock,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

who struck down great kings,

and killed famous kings,

Sihon, king of the Amorites,

and Og, king of Bashan,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

and gave their land as a heritage,

a heritage to his servant Israel,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

and rescued us from our foes,

who gives food to all flesh,

O give thanks to the God of heaven,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

MCC Meat Canner

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) meat cannery began in the 1940's as a mobile unit to preserve meat in metal cans for post-WWII Europe, following a successful, community-based experiment in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. This idea eventually led to the construction of the first long-distance mobile cannery in Hesston, Kansas, in 1946.

Today the MCC canner is in its fourth and most modern version. In 2025, a permanent stationary cannery opened in Ontario, Canada, to improve efficiency and overcome cross-border regulatory challenges.

Every year MCC's mobile meat canner travels across the U.S., and dedicated volunteers prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork to be sent around the world. Over 30,000 people a year volunteer to fill, weigh, wash and label every can. Last year, the Canner shipped 917,280 lbs. of canned meat to countries like Chad, Cuba, Ethiopia, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Zambia.

While we feel sadness that the Canner wasn't able to come to Freeman this year, we still rejoice in how God is using the canner to feed the hungry.

