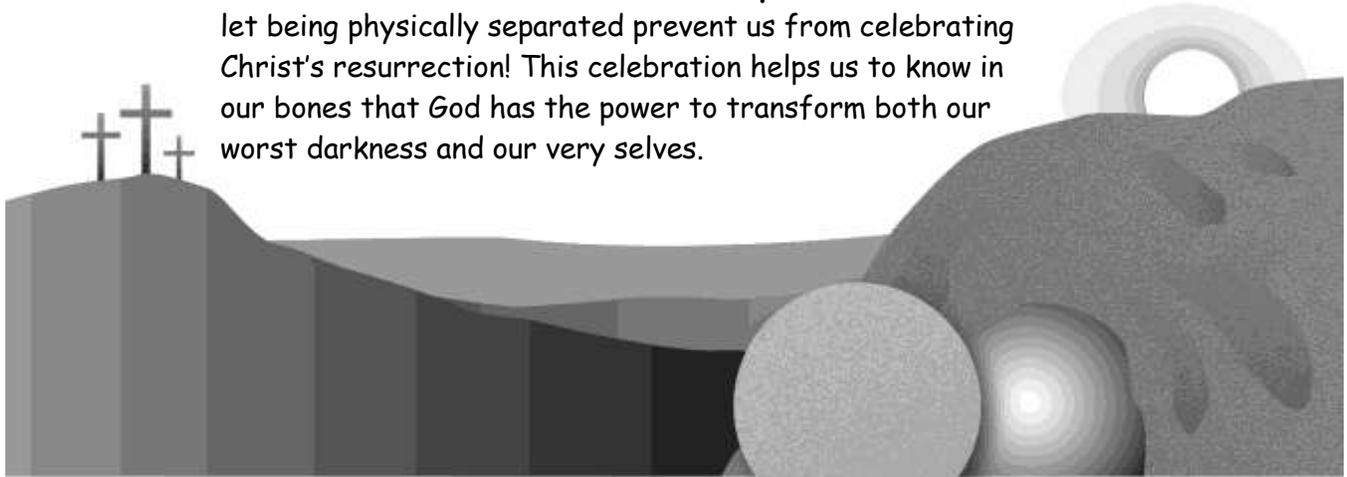


Welcome at a distance to our **Easter worship service!** We will not let being physically separated prevent us from celebrating Christ's resurrection! This celebration helps us to know in our bones that God has the power to transform both our worst darkness and our very selves.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Pastor Caleb

Call to Worship and Invocation

Leader: The Lord is risen!

(Lighting of peace lamp and Christ candle)

People: The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: Let all the people of Alexanderwohl declare:

People: The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: Let all the earth declare:

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Instrumental Call to Worship

This Joyful Easter Tide

Karen Unruh and Kyle Unruh

Easter Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

HWB 280

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

All creation joins to say: Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!

Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Children's Story

Laura Voth

Easter Hymn

Low in the Grave

HWB 273

Low in the grave he lay— Jesus my Savior!

Refrain:

Waiting the coming day— Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose,

Vainly they watch his bed— Jesus, my Savior!

With a mighty triumph o'er his foes

Vainly they seal the dead— Jesus my Lord!

He arose a Victor from the dark domain,

And he lives forever with his saints to reign.

Death cannot keep its prey— Jesus, my Savior!

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

He tore the bars away— Jesus my Lord!

Confession and Assurance

(adapted from Psalm 118:1, 14-16, 22-24)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: God's love endures forever!

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our defense; God has become our salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

People: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: The Lord's right hand is lifted high!

People: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: God's love endures forever!

Leader: The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

All: God's love endures forever!

Worship Music

Cornerstone ~Shawn Kirchner

Recording of choirs from Hesston College, Bethel College, and Alexanderwohl

Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-19

Reflection

"Peace be with you"

Pastor Caleb

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Song of Sending

Lift Your Glad Voices

HWB 275

Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and we shall not die.
Vain were the terrors that gathered around him,
And short the dominion of death and the grave;

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;
The being he gave us death cannot destroy.
Sad were the life we may part with tomorrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end.

He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound him,
Resplendent in glory to live and to save!
Loud was the chorus of angels on high,
"The Savior hath risen, and we shall not die."

But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to heaven ascend.
Lift then your voices in triumph on high,
For Jesus hath risen, and we shall not die.

Benediction

Pastor Caleb

+ The peace lamp serves as a visual reminder for us that we follow Jesus the Prince of Peace and believe in uncertain times that God's shalom will prevail.

Special thanks to Marcia Brubaker, Karen Unruh, Kyle Unruh, ElRoy Wiens, Laura Voth and Delton Voth for their help with participating in and recording this worship service.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How do you hear the story of Jesus' resurrection differently remembering that the disciples were in a time of crisis as we are?
2. How does Easter help us to not live in fear in our current season?

Scripture reading for Next Sunday: John 20:19-29

1. What does it mean that Jesus sends us as the Father sent him?
2. What is the relationship between doubt and faith? Is doubt the opposite of faith?

Praying for our congregation and beyond

- ❖ For the students, teachers, staff, and administration at Goessel schools as school at home continues, and as grab-and-go meals resume, praying for the safety of everyone.
- ❖ For the several people who have tested positive for Covid-19 in Marion County, and for others who may be sick.
- ❖ For all of us remembering loved ones at Easter who are no longer with us in person at this time of year.
- ❖ For those who are staff or administration at local nursing homes with the stressful work of complying with regulations and doing everything possible to keep everyone safe.
- ❖ For New Hope Shelter as they adapt to this health crisis while serving those experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ For all of us to be able to rest in the presence of Christ who is risen, even when we are afraid, tired, and frustrated.
- ❖ We thank God for on-going opportunities to connect with family, friends, and fellow believers, and even deeper connection than ever before.
- ❖ We pray for Darlene Schmidt whose younger sister, Ruth Warkentin passed away on March 27 in Santa Barbara, CA.

Here's an idea for a project while you're home – write **notes** of love and encouragement to nursing home residents. Contact the church office if you'd like a list.

Here's another idea while you're home – write a **diary entry** about your days during the stay-at-home order. Or take some time to listen to God's Spirit, and write a simple journal entry about what this unusual time is teaching you. Contact the church office if you'd be willing to share your entry.

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Sandy Banman
Marilyn Unruh Flaming
Ruth Goertzen
Cindy Hastings
Bryant Miller
Jim Schmidt

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The family of Marvin Voth invites you to celebrate Marvin's 97th birthday by sending him birthday cards. His birthday is Tuesday, April 28, but cards would be welcome any time. Please send them to P.O. Box 23, Goessel, KS 67053.

Are you willing to create and donate cloth masks? A number of local institutions can use donations. The CDC has a page about several methods to make cloth masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

- Bethesda Home: PO Box 37 Goessel, KS 67053 (prefer masks with ties on the back versus elastic)
- Prairie View: 1901 E. First in Newton, or call [800-992-9262](tel:800-992-9262) to arrange a place to drop off.
- Other local nursing homes

Also, if you personally need a cloth face mask and don't have access to fabric or a sewing machine, contact the church office; there are volunteers who will make a mask for you. Please remember that ongoing physical distancing is vital in the coming weeks. The masks are to be used only when you need to venture out for essential reasons – to get items like groceries and medications.

There are also volunteers who will get groceries and/or prescriptions and bring them to your door. Especially if you live outside of Goessel, let the church office know if you want or need someone to do that for you. Keith's Foods will also deliver. If you're in Goessel and you have an order of at least \$30, email your grocery list to: kfoods@mtelco.

The church website has a list of select resources for faith formation of all ages to take advantage of while at home. To see this list go to <http://alexanderwohl.org/resource-page/>

Thank you – Thank you for the cards, texts, phone calls, food, hospital and home visits and care and concern shown during my surgery in February and recovery time at home. I appreciated it all so much. A supportive church family is a priceless gift! A special thank you to Pastor Caleb and Pastor Lois for their support and encouragement and to Janine Peters for filling in at the church office during my absence. Blessings to you – Ruth Goertzen

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUEST

Western District Conference

On this Easter Sunday, give thanks for God's gift of life! Pray that WDC congregations and members will be a witness for healing and hope in the Easter season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

Keep in touch on the Camp Mennoscah Facebook page! **Camp Mennoscah facilities and camp grounds will be closed at least until April 30** with respect to your health and the statewide Stay Home order. Camp staff will be working from home and at a distance. You can also reach us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org. We send you many prayers. Stay healthy!

You can still sign up for summer youth camps! Camp Mennoscah is planning to have summer youth camps, but recognizing the ever-changing nature of the COVID-19 situation, a final decision will be made closer to the start of camps. Your camp fees, including the non-refundable, non-transferable deposit, will be refunded if camp is canceled. Further information can be found at www.campmennoscah.org or by calling 620-297-3290.

Send words! Camp Mennoscah will create the 2020 tee shirt from three pairs of words representing important parts of Camp Mennoscah, serious or playful. An example would be Gaga Ball, Verenike Casserole, Campfire Songs. Send your ideas to olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or send a message to the Camp Mennoscah Facebook page.

Men and Boys Retreat (previously scheduled for April 3-5) at Camp Mennoscah has been rescheduled to September 4-6, 2020!

Mennonite Church USA

Reflecting on Faith and Fear: "Time Such As This" is a FREE edition of the *Rejoice* devotional in the midst of a pandemic. These are wonderful, thoughtful reflections by some gifted Anabaptist writers. Find a copy of this at <https://mennowdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-Time-Such-As-This-sm.pdf>

Dove's Nest has resources for protecting and engaging children and teens while families are sheltering at home. There are some creative ideas, as well as internet safety tips available at: <https://dovesnest.net/Are-the-Kids-OK>

Want to serve with your family? Only have time for a short service term? Then SOOP is perfect for you! Age: 25+ and families; flexible term length. Learn more at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

Mennonite Central Committee

As we celebrate the new life given to us through Jesus' resurrection this Easter morning, we can't escape the realities of COVID-19. In a time of uncertainty and social distancing, we offer you a selection of resources that MCC has prepared over the years for congregations, families and individuals. We pray for the many who are dealing with COVID directly and the many others who are impacted by our collective attempt to stop the spread of this virus. From prayers to recipes and cooking videos, from coloring pages to videos that give you a glimpse of life across the world, we hope we are able to offer something that may encourage or nourish you in an extraordinary time. mcc.org/covid-19-resources.

You may view this Easter greeting from MCC Executive Director, Ron Byler: <https://mcc.org/stories/rons-easter-message-video>

MCC Comforter Fabric Deliveries Available - Hello, Comforter-Makers! We hope you are all staying home and staying safe. We invite you to make comforter tops for MCC! There is a great need for comfort, warmth, and love in the world right now; MCC anticipates an increase in requests for comforters from MCC partners around the world as the COVID-19 pandemic impacts vulnerable and displaced people.

If you would like to work on making comforter tops for MCC and need fabric to do so, we will deliver it to your doorstep! MCC has bags of color coordinated cotton fabrics that can be made into 60 X 80 comforter tops. A limited amount of pre-cut squares are also available. If you would like a bag (or bags) delivered safely to your house, please email katemast@mcc.org by Wednesday, April 15, to get on the delivery list. Already have fabric at home that you'd like to use? Please review the MCC Comforter Guidelines and instructional videos at mcc.org/comforters. Thank you in advance for your stitches!

Tabor Food Pantry

Due to restrictions and recommendations surrounding COVID-19, the Tabor Church Food Pantry has implemented the following policy: We will continue to serve those in need by providing basic grocery items from what we have available at the time. When we receive a call, people may request specific items and we will include those items in their bags if we have them. We will have a limit of two bags of groceries and a \$50 card to Keith's Food for perishable items. When people arrive to pick up their groceries, we will have them at the door and take them out to their car. At this time, rather than ask for donations of grocery items from the wider community, we are asking for monetary donations. We will buy the groceries to keep our shelves stocked. You may send your donation to Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, KS 67114.

Community Relief Fund

While no one knows the future, your community foundation is being proactive in announcing that we have a fund established for events that might become necessary in our community. Through the CKCF Relief Fund, GCF is currently accepting donations in preparation for the effects of COVID-19 in our community. We are a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations made for this purpose will be granted back into the community where it is needed most, supporting relief efforts. Checks can be made out to the Goessel Community Foundation and dropped off with Peggy at Citizens State Bank in Goessel earmarked for Corona-19 Relief Fund. Donations are also accepted on-line at centralkansascf.org/covid-19response. If you have questions, please contact Dwight Flaming (620-386-4044) dmflaming@mtelco.net

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

The camp staff and board members at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp are responding to the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic (doing the best we can, with what we know, when we know it) in ensuring the safety of our staff, campers and guests during this time. While cancellations of programs and guest groups are part of our current response, we are planning and preparing for the day we return to our normal (or new normal) ministry offerings when permissible and appropriate. Regardless, we will continue to fulfill our mission statement of, "A place of retreat and community in God's creation." Please visit our web page (www.rmmc.org) for additional information about the financial impact or donating to the Rocky Mountain ministry in these challenging times.

AMBS

In the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, we walk through the events of Holy Week – trial, crucifixion and resurrection – with new lenses. Many pass Holy Saturday as a "nothing" day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Sheltering at home this year puts me in touch with the isolation of the disciples between the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. In this extended Holy Saturday, we are leaning in a new way toward the hope of the resurrection, and this we will declare by faith, through whatever media we can: "He is risen!" --David Boshart, Ph.D., President

Everence Financial to Hold Exploring Planned Giving Webinar

Everence® Financial will host a webinar, *Exploring planned giving*, on Tuesday, April 21. The event will be at 10 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will discuss strategies to remember and support the causes and organizations that they are passionate about in their planning. Reserve your spot by contacting Darlene Buller at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.