



**Welcome!**

Welcome to our worship service from a distance! This Easter season we are returning to the stories of Christ appearing to the disciples after his resurrection with the conviction that Christ has risen and stands with us during this pandemic. Like the apostles, we want to venture to the next step of not only following Christ in our lives but discipling others.

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

**Welcome**

Pastor Lois Harder

**Call to Worship and Invocation**

(Based on HWB 755 and Isaiah 6:8)

Leader: God, you call us to speak to the world of the Child whose word holds the universe together!

**People: But we can hardly speak for ourselves; we are inadequate to speak in your Son's Name.**

Leader: You ask, "Whom shall I send? Who will go?" If we who have witnessed your love in Jesus have no words, who can witness to your reign that is already among us.

**People: Send us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to teach us, and remind us of everything Jesus lived and proclaimed.**

Leader: Show us when to keep silence, when to act in secret, and when to openly name the Name of Jesus, to give people the reason for the hope that is in us.

**All: Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ. You took the form of a servant. You preached peace. You healed the oppressed. You died for us. We will tell the world. Here we are; through our worship, send us!**

**Instrumental Call to Worship**

*(Lighting of peace lamp)*

Mary Schmidt

**Opening Hymn**

*O God, who gives us life*

HWB 483

O God who gives us life and breath,  
who shapes us in the womb,  
who guards our lives from birth to  
death, then leads us from the tomb:  
deliver us from fears that kill  
the life we have from you;  
help us to know your Spirit still  
is making all things new.

O God who calls your people out,  
to venture and to dare,  
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt  
and find you even there:  
when we despair in wandering  
through wastes of empty lies,  
refresh us with the living spring  
of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law,  
revealed in cloud and flame,  
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;  
we dare not speak your Name.  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you  
and will your people prove,  
as on our hearts you write anew  
the covenant of love.

**Mother's Day Moment**

Schrag family

Today is Mother's Day – the day when we would be dedicating children and their parents if we were meeting together, in person. Since we're still social distancing, we want to recognize these parents and their children; rest assured we will have a time of dedication for them when it's more safe to gather!

Elliot Holland Hiebert, December 5, 2019 – Parents: Garrett & Brittany Hiebert

Wyatt Ross Hiebert, January 22, 2020 – Parents: Weston & Courtney Hiebert

Logan Alan Unrau, July 10, 2019 – Parents: Jared & Laura Unrau, Big sister: Ellie Unrau

Myles Wayne Unruh, April 29, 2020 – Parents: Kyle & Justine Unruh, Big Sister: Lillian Unruh

Josiah Benjamin Yoder, August 12, 2019 – Parents: Caleb & Beth Yoder, Big Brother: Austin Yoder

**Children's Story**

Chrystiana Miller

## Song of Faith

*I love to tell the story*

HWB 398

I love to tell the story of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and his glory of Jesus and his love  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest  
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,  
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy word.

### Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

## Worship Music

*How great thou art*

Gaeddert family

## Morning Prayer

Pastor Lois

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:16-28

Denise Duerksen

### Reflection

"Discipling"

Pastor Caleb Yoder

## SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

### Song of Sending

*You are salt for the earth*

HWB 226

You are salt for the earth, O people:  
Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the Kingdom of God!

We are a bless'd and a pilgrim people:  
Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the Kingdom of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:  
Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

### Refrain:

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
Bring forth the City of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the Kingdom of God!

### Benediction

*I'll fly away & This little light of mine*

Gaeddert family

+ 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 Mary Schmidt; Eric, Gretchen, Julianna, Timothy, and Jacob Schrag; Chrystiana Miller; Denise Duerksen; Kevin, Bonnie, Emmalyn, Eddie, Eli, Ellarose, Joyce and Gary Gaeddert, and Darla Banman; Steve Unruh, and Delton Voth for their help with participating in and recording this worship service.

Visual Arts: Tina Schrag

HWB – *Hymnal, A Worship Book*

### Questions for Reflection (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. Are these words only for the apostles or are they also for us? What does it mean to receive this commission?
2. How much do we have to have it "figured out" in order to be able to disciple others?

**Scripture reading for Next Sunday:** Acts 9:1-19

## *Praying for our Congregation and Beyond*

- ❖ We continue to pray for our sister church, Luz del Evangelio, in Dallas as they seek to be church during the pandemic. We give thanks for the recovery of Lupita, the wife of Pastor Juan.
- ❖ We pray for students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration at area schools as the end of the normal school year approaches. We pray for motivation and a sense of purpose to end well.
- ❖ We pray for those needing to take the greatest measures to prevent infection without knowing for how long: nursing home residents and staff, health care professionals, and higher-risk individuals at home. We pray for a sense of connection in a lonely time.
- ❖ We pray for those whose livelihoods are affected by the pandemic or stay-at-home restrictions.
- ❖ We pray for those in countries like Honduras with few public health resources and where lockdowns cause hunger.
- ❖ We pray for the family of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year old unarmed black man shot to death in February in Glynn County, Georgia while jogging. Surround them with your love, God, as they grieve his untimely and unjust death.
- ❖ We thank God for a positive doctor's report this week for Gene Hastings. He has been receiving immunotherapy for cancer and the most recent scans show significant shrinking of the tumor and the cancer has not spread! Gene will continue to receive treatments and follow-up. Thanks be to God for this progress towards healing!
- ❖ We thank God for a positive report from the doctor this week received by Mark Nikkel, son of Ted and Joan – the cancerous tumor is gone!
- ❖ We thank God for opportunities to connect more deeply with others as we find strength and hope in our common faith together.
- ❖ We thank God with the family of Pete and Marilyn Flaming, as they celebrate four years with Pete's new heart! The anniversary of his transplant was May 3.

### **What you can do during this time:**

- **Write notes** of love and encouragement to nursing home residents. Contact the church office if you'd like a list.
- Write a **diary entry** about your days with a different pace of life. Or take time to listen to God's Spirit, and write a simple journal entry about what this unusual time is teaching you. Consider sharing what you write.
- **Call persons** outside your family that may be feeling lonely or consider picking up groceries for someone if you are not at high-risk.
- **Cherish God's Earth** through time outdoors, gardening, and stewardship of natural resources.
- If your household is not in need of your stimulus money, consider donating it to a worthy cause as an act of Christ-like generosity.

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Ruth Goertzen  
Cindy Hastings  
Bryant Miller  
Jim Schmidt

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Martha Voth is turning 90 years old on May 20.** You are invited to help her celebrate by sending her a birthday card or note. Her address is Martha Voth, 3054 Ivy Court, Room 32W, North Newton, KS 67117.

**Thank you for the congregation's participation** in the virtual congregational meeting concerning the design of the elevator wall discussion. There were 88 votes cast which included 81 yes votes and 7 no votes. The offered comments will be particularly helpful as we move forward. The designed wall has received approval from the congregation. The vote results, along with the comments offered, will be shared with the trustees and they will plan the next steps accordingly. From the church council – Karl Brubaker

**We invite you to a weekly Zoom prayer meeting Wednesday at 6:30 pm** using the *Take our Moments and Our Days: an Anabaptist Prayer Book*. This format includes scripture readings and guided prayer, while offering space for inserting our own specific prayers. The prayer guide will show up on screen, but we also will share it as a PDF. The link to our next Wednesday prayer meeting will be sent by email.

**Scholarship applications** for all full-time students attending a Mennonite College for the 2020-21 school year are due July 1, 2020. Please fill out the form now if you plan to be away for the summer. The application form is on the church website (under resources). Please return to the church office or Carol Reimer Duerksen as soon as possible.

**We need to share a difficult decision with you: Camp Tawakoni 2020 is cancelled.** As we thought about the risks and challenges of being at camp in the midst of a pandemic, we decided we could not run our camp in a safe and responsible manner. This decision was not an easy one for us to make. For the first time in almost sixty years, the Goessel Community Junior High won't be heading to camp during the Memorial Day weekend. We mourn the loss of strengthened relationships with God, youth, friends, and nature. We realize how important this weekend is for our junior highers and nurturing their faith. We would still like to connect with the junior highers in other ways, even though we are apart. We are also hoping for another event with the entire junior high this summer.  
~Michelle Unruh & Laura Unruh

**Mask Donations** - The need continues for more homemade cloth mask donations to area medical facilities. Bethesda Home, Presbyterian Manor, Prairie View, etc. note that donations have dropped off, but continue to trickle in. The masks wear out with washing, so the supply needs to be replenished. Masks are an important part of the safety protocols which will be in place much longer for them than for the general public. Please consider continuing to make and donate masks. If you are in need of fabric, or have fabric to donate, contact Nancy Stucky. ([bnstucky@mtelco.net](mailto:bnstucky@mtelco.net) or 620-367-2610)

Due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19 for when we can safely gather, we have **cancelled VBS at Alexanderwohl** for this year. We feel sadness at this loss of faith formation and friendship for children. We look forward to being back next year!

**There are blue hymnals available** from the airlock entrance on the northeast side. Feel free to help yourself and keep one. Masks are also available in the NE entryway.

**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/>

## CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

### Western District Conference

Pray for children and youth and their leaders and parents in WDC congregations, as they plan for the conclusion of a school year disrupted by coronavirus.

## Mennonite Mission Network

MMN requests prayer for mothers around the world, especially those who struggle to provide life's necessities for their children. May we share what God has given us, acknowledging that we are all part of God's family.

## COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Camp Mennoscah

**After much prayer and conversation, Camp Mennoscah made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 summer youth camps.** The safety of campers and staff is our top priority and we could not envision a way to safely and responsibly continue in-person summer camps at Camp Mennoscah in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful camp will be a vibrant place of community and faith formation again soon, and we will keep you updated about possibilities for being at camp.

**Parents/Guardians of campers registered for Camp Mennoscah's 2020 summer youth camps** will be contacted directly by May 15 about your registration(s). If you have not completed the emailed survey regarding alternate camp options, please do so or contact Camp Mennoscah. We want to hear your thoughts!

**Camp Mennoscah is working on guidelines for being open to small groups and families within state and local recommendations.** Watch the [campmennoscah.org](https://campmennoscah.org) website and the Camp Mennoscah Facebook page for updates! If you already have a group reservation at Camp Mennoscah, we will contact you if changes are needed. At this time, the Family Weekend in July has not been canceled. Contact us at 620-297-3290 with questions.

### Bethel College

**Kauffman Museum** might be closed to the public, but there are still **two exhibits** visitors can view. One is "**Meta: An Exhibition about Exhibitions,**" a senior project by Bethel College students Elizabeth Friesen Birky and Emma Girton. Take a virtual tour of this exhibit at <https://tinyurl.com/metavirtualexhibit>. The other is "**Science Behind the News: Viruses,**" a pop-up exhibit mounted on the outside of the museum at the corner of Main and 27th Streets in North Newton, by the front door. Text is in both English and Spanish. You will also be able to see the "Viruses" exhibit at Newton Medical Center and Health Ministries Clinic in the near future.

### Mennonite Church USA

Are you searching for hope? Let us help. Like @MennoniteMissionNet on Facebook to catch the Hope Series. See our Facebook banner for the streaming schedule.

### Western District Conference

**WDC Annual Assembly 2020 update:** Has Covid-19 got you feeling like you're "Living In Exile?" For some of us, this is a new awakening. For others, it's all too familiar. Join us for the socially distanced Western District Conference Annual Assembly online on August 1. (*Note: This will replace previous plans for an in-person gathering*). Webinars, worship, Danny Carroll, our keynote speaker, and some time to talk together will all be part of this grand experiment. What can the times we're living in help us to discover about mission? About God's love for the exile? We hope it will be possible for small groups to host Assembly watch parties together. If not, we'll be together in Spirit and over digital media. Save the date! See you there!

**The WDC/SCC Women's and Girl's Retreat is scheduled!** We plan to gather together at Camp Mennoscah Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 (mark your calendars). The Retreat Committee is working to make this a special time of reflection, fellowship and fun. Please keep this in prayer as we hope to be able to gather and worship together in the usual way, but will reevaluate as needed when the time gets closer.

**WDC seeks** a full time Associate Conference Minister with focus on supporting congregations and pastors in Texas and promoting church planting across WDC. Job description and qualifications are posted on the WDC website at <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-associate-conference-minister-texas-based/>. For more information contact Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister, at [heidirk@mennowdc.org](mailto:heidirk@mennowdc.org). Candidates are requested to send a letter of intent to WDC, and complete a Ministerial Leadership Information (MLI) form through Mennonite Church USA.

**We give thanks for generous contributions to the WDC Hope Fund** and the opportunity to assist WDC congregations facing financial needs due to Covid-19.

### Mennonite Central Committee

**COVID-19 Update from Mennonite Central Committee:** MCC Central States in North Newton continues to be closed to the public through the month of May, however material resources donations can be left in the 24-hour donation drop-off room at any time. If you would like fabric to sew into comforters, please contact [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org) and she can either deliver it or set it out in the donation room for you. We have LOTS of pre-cut squares available. Join us in caring for those who are most in need in our changing times. Monetary donations are being accepted at [donate.mcc.org](https://donate.mcc.org) to support water, food, hygiene and health programs around the world.

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night.*

*Tend the sick, Lord Christ, in particular those suffering from COVID-19, those in under-resourced hospitals and those with no access to hospitals at all.*

*Give rest to the weary – including doctors, medical staff, parents, pastors and leaders making difficult decisions.*

*Bless the dying, soothe the suffering, and comfort their families and communities.*

*Pity the afflicted, especially those living in contexts of poverty, violence and limited public services for whom the call to stay at home is the call to face economic loss, hunger or physical danger.*

*Shield the joyous without letting this joy cloud compassion.*

*Call each of us to patience, to generosity and selflessness, to kindness, goodness, and peace, and all for your love's sake.*

*~Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer by the MCC U.S. Washington Office*