



Welcome!

Welcome to our worship service from a distance! As we continue in the Easter season we are holding on to the assurance that Christ has risen and stands with us during this pandemic. As Jesus appeared to his disciples along the road to Emmaus, so also the Spirit of Christ appears to us in these liminal, uncertain times.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Call to Worship and Invocation

(based on Psalm 116 from The Message)

Leader: I love God because he listened to me, listened as I begged for mercy.

People: He listened so intently as I laid out my case before him.

Leader: Death stared me in the face, hell was hard on my heels. Up against it I didn't know which way to turn; then I called out to God for help:

People: "Please God!" I cried out. "Save my life!"

Leader: What can I give back to God for the blessings he's poured out on me? I'll lift high the cup of salvation – a toast to God!

People: I'll pray in the name of God; I'll complete what I promised God I'd do, and I'll do it together with his people.

ALL: Oh, God, here I am, your servant, your faithful servant; set me free for your service!

Instrumental Call to Worship

Karen Unruh

Peace Prayer

Mallory and Emma Schroeder

Easter Hymn

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain (verses 1, 2 & 4)

HWB 265

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness! God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness, loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters, led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

"Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen. All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal. But today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing thy true peace which evermore passes human knowing.

Children's Story

Karl Brubaker

Song of Faith

On the journey to Emmaus

STS 98

On the journey to Emmaus with our hearts cold as stone – the One who would save us had left us alone. Then a stranger walks with us and, to our surprise, he opens our stories and he opens our eyes.

And our hearts burned within us as we talked on the way, how all that was promised was ours on that day. So we begged him, "Stay with us and grant us your word." We welcomed the stranger and we welcomed the Lord.

And that evening at the table as he blessed and broke bread, we saw it was Jesus aris'n from the dead; though he vanished before us we knew he was near – the life in our dying and the hope in our fear.

On our journey to Emmaus, in our stories and feast, with Jesus we claim that the greatest is least: and his words burn within us – let none be ignored – who welcomes the stranger shall welcome the Lord.

Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Delaney and Cambry Duerksen

Reflection

"Standing at the threshold"

Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Song of Sending

The risen Christ

STS 101

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street, unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand the bread for those who fail to understand, reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears, enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe, new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand with the oppressed in this and every land, till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored to Christ to true humanity.

Benediction

Peace I Leave With You ~Tim Shue

GHS Elbiata Singers

+ 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, ElRoy Wiens, Karl Brubaker, Delaney and Cambry Duerksen, Braden Unruh and the Elbiata Singers, Mallory and Emma Schroeder, Steve Unruh, and Delton Voth for their help with participating in and recording this worship service.

HWB – *Hymnal, A Worship Book*

STS – *Sing the Story*

Questions for Reflection

1. Can you identify ways that you are "standing at the threshold" in your life right now?
2. What are some coping skills and/or spiritual disciplines you're using or would like to try?

Scripture reading for Next Sunday: Matthew 28:16-20

Praying for our Congregation and Beyond

- ❖ We thank God for the safe arrival of Myles Wayne, born to Kyle and Justine Unruh on April 29, at 4:41pm at Newton Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and is 19.5 inches long. His proud big sister is Lillian and his happy grandparents are Duane and Karen Unruh and Scott and Cindy Erb.
- ❖ We pray for Tom Hiebert and Ron Ediger at the passing of Alda Mae on Friday morning at Bethesda Home. May God send them comfort during this time.
- ❖ We pray for members of our sister church, Luz del Evangelio, and especially for the family of Pastor Juan and Lupita, as Lupita recovers from Covid-19.
- ❖ 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 while not meeting in person.

- ❖ 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 those with loss of income or job uncertainty.
- ❖ We thank God for opportunities to reflect on our priorities and connect with family, friends, and fellow believers.

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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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Care Fund has resources. We are going through unprecedented times making adjustments in response to the Covid-19 virus. We know some people in the church community have been furloughed, have reduced hours, or possibly have lost jobs. If you are experiencing difficulty with bills or meeting household needs because of unexpected reduced income, please visit with a pastor or deacon. There are resources available to help. The pastors and deacons may not know about needs unless someone brings them to their attention. This year, in anticipation of increased need, Everence is doubling their matching grant for the Deacon Care Fund. It may be hard to ask for help, but know that there are some resources available.

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.

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.

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 REQUEST

Western District Conference

Pray for generous contributions to be given to the WDC Hope Fund, to enable support for congregations facing financial hardship due to the impact of coronavirus.

Mennonite Mission Network

Mennonite Mission Network administrators request prayer for wisdom in continuing God's ministries of healing and hope in ways that do not expose personnel and partners to undue risks of exposure to COVID-19. All travel and in-person public gatherings have been canceled or postponed. Ministry continues through online connections.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

Dear Camp Mennoscah community: After much prayer and conversation, we have made the difficult decision to cancel 2020 summer youth camps at Camp Mennoscah. We as camp staff and camp board have spent much time considering the challenges and risks of moving forward with summer camp as usual, as well as thinking about creative ways to still have camp in person. However, because the safety of campers and staff is our top priority, 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.

Camp Mennoscah is committed to connecting with you despite the cancellation of in-person camps for the summer, and we are already dreaming of ideas to share the camp community in some form this summer. Your creative ideas are welcomed.

This decision is incredibly saddening to us, and we will miss the laughter, joy, spiritual encounters, and new friendships that happen during summer youth camps. As our society continues to learn about this virus and develop new safety procedures and guidelines, we are hopeful that camp will be the vibrant place of community and faith formation again soon, and we will keep you updated about possibilities for being at camp.

We are so grateful for your support during this time -- Camp Mennoscah Staff and Board of Directors

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

Western District Conference has established a [Hope Fund](#) to support congregations and ministers, in response to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. We invite your contributions online at <https://mennowdc.org> or send a check to WDC at PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117. For more information and application forms, see <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-hope-fund-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Everence to hold Medicare Webinar

Everence will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step*, as a webinar on **Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar is free. Please register by contacting Darlene Buller at 877-467-7294, 316-283-3800 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

**Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.*

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