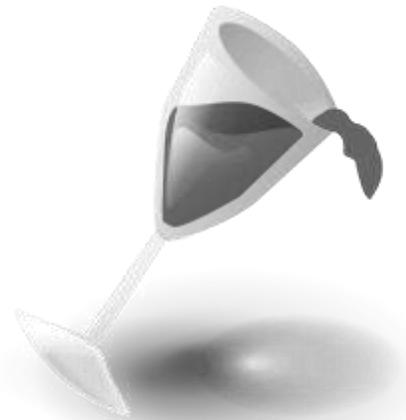


Welcome!

Welcome to our worship service! In today's text we read crude, harsh, difficult language. John's vision includes images of the excesses and exploitation in the Roman empire that led to its fall. Followers of Jesus are exhorted and encouraged to persevere through a painful and difficult time, to work with God in bringing God's kingdom to fruition.



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Mary Schmidt

Welcome

Pastor Lois Harder

Opportunities for Celebration and Service

Call to Worship and Invocation

(lighting of the peace lamp)

Revelation 19:1-2, 5-7

Leader: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God,

People: for God's judgments are true and just.

Leader: Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great.

All: Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory!

Hymn of Praise (instrumental)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

HWB 37

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
now to God's temple draw near.
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the "amen!"
sound from God's people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Morning Prayer

Pastor Caleb Yoder

Worship Music (recording)

Tenderly Calling ~Jan Garrett

Kevin Gaeddert

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Revelation 17:1-9a, 15-18; 18:1-5, 9-13, 20-24

Travis Duerksen

Congregational hymn (instrumental)

Oh, holy city seen of John

HWB 320

Oh, holy city seen of John,
where Christ, the Lamb, shall reign,
within whose foursquare walls shall come
no night, nor need, nor pain,
and where the tears are wiped from eyes
that shall not weep again.

Oh, shame to us who rest content
while lust and greed for gain
in street and shop and tenement
wring gold from human pain,
and bitter lips in blind despair cry,
"Christ has died in vain!"

Give us, O God, the strength to build
the city that has stood
too long a dream, whose laws are love,
whose ways are servanthood,
and where the sun bright shining
is your grace for human good.

Already in the mind of God that city rises fair.
Lo, how its splendor challenges
the souls that greatly dare,
yea, bids us seize the whole of life
and build its glory there.

Message

The fall of the empire

Pastor Lois

SENT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Song of Response

Beyond a dying sun

HWB 323

Beyond a dying sun I saw
a vision on the sea
of golden sails full billowed on the wind.
And echoing above the waves
a voice called after me,
"God's dwelling place is with you
till the end."

For God at last shall wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
The sting of death shall pierce the heart no more.
When grieving turns to laughter
all the pain from us shall fly,
and former ways lie bleached upon the shore.

*Refrain: I see a new world coming
when everyone is free!
And all shall be God's people
in justice, love and peace.*

Though hatred rages on the wind
and wars defile the land,
I see those golden sails still coming strong,
for through the eyes of faith still shines
the vision of the Lamb,
and o'er a weary earth there rings this song.

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings

First Fruits Giving

Prayer of dedication

Pastor Caleb

Benediction

Pastor Caleb

Postlude

Mary Schmidt

Sending Song (outside)

O healing river

HWB 372

O healing river,
send down your waters,
send down your waters
upon this land.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
and wash the blood
from off the sand.

This land is parching,
this land is burning,
no seed is growing
in the barren ground.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
O healing river,
send your waters down.

Let the seed of freedom
awake and flourish,
let the deep roots nourish,
let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
O healing river,
from out of the skies.

+ 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, Brendon Nafziger and ushers, Tina Schrag (visual arts), Travis Duerksen, Kevin Gaeddert, the AMC Covid Task Force, Steve Unruh, and Delton Voth.

Questions for Reflection – Revelation 17-18 (from J. Nelson Kraybill's book *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation*)

1. How can you see national and international systems of imperial power at work in the modern world? What professed values have been used to justify these empires?
2. What questions or concerns do you have about images of violence in Revelation? Under what circumstances, if ever, would you use violent imagery or language in worship? Would you ever use violence in conflict?

Next Sunday we continue our worship focus through the book of Revelation. You are encouraged to read Revelation chapters 19-21 in preparation.

Praying for our congregation and beyond

- ❖ We pray for teachers and students as they continue to struggle to teach and learn in the midst of this pandemic.
- ❖ We pray for level heads and compassionate hearts to prevail in this election season.
- ❖ We continue to pray for folks connected to Bethesda in the challenge of intense testing of staff and residents while maintaining positive spirits, as well as for other area nursing care facilities with similar challenges.
- ❖ We continue to pray for those in the community with serious complications of COVID.

1304 K-15 Hwy, Box 8
Goessel Kansas 67053
Office: (620) 367-8192
email: alexmenno@mtelco.net
website:
www.alexanderwohl.org

Pastors:
Caleb Yoder
(319) 930-7754
alexcaleb@mtelco.net

Lois Harder
(316) 617-3497
alexlois@mtelco.net

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

If you would appreciate a porch visit or phone call from one of the pastors or deacons, please feel free to contact us!

Coming Events

Sunday, October 25	10:00 am	Worship Service – church building
Sunday, October 25	1:30 pm	Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk
Monday, October 26	4:00 pm	Prayer Team
Monday, October 26	4:30 pm	COVID Task Force meeting on zoom
Tuesday, October 27	6:30 pm	Children's Ministry Team
Wednesday, October 28	6:45 pm	Faith formation for ages 3 through grade 12
Sunday, November 1	2:00 am	Daylight Saving Time Ends (set clocks back 1 hour)
Sunday, November 1	10:00 am	Worship service in the sanctuary
Sunday, November 1	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Bethesda Pillar's Banquet carry-out meal
Monday, November 2	7:00 pm	Board of Christian Education
Monday, November 9	5:45 pm	Board of Mission and Service
Monday, November 9	7:00 pm	Church Council
Sunday, November 15	5:00 – 6:00 pm	Goessel Community Thanksgiving Meal
November 20 & 21		MCC Meat Canning, N. Newton

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, October 25, is the Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk! You can still sign up to walk (or run) and you can still make a donation to help MCC's COVID-19 relief efforts, as well as the expenses of our local Tabor Food Pantry. Contact area coordinator Kevin Nickel (at 620-747-0029) to participate in this event or donate online at <https://runsignup.com/harvestgivingwalk>. Walkers, please be at the Alexanderwohl Church shelter house by 1:15 p.m. to sign in and remember to bring an item for the Food Pantry as well as your donation envelope.

Goessel Community Drive-Through Thanksgiving Meal - COVID can't stop our good work! The *meal will be catered this year by Keith Banman*. Drive-through will be from **5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 at the Goessel Elementary School**. The meal is free; donations are welcome to help Goessel Ministerial Alliance (GMA) provide assistance for community families and the schools. Please help Keith to plan by sending an RSVP to tinyurl.com/Goessel-T-giving-2020

The Board of Deacons would like to thank those who have brought freezer meals to be distributed as needed. Additional meals are always welcome. Thanks!

Plan to support Bethesda Home by taking part in the annual Pillar's Banquet – Drive Thru Style, Sunday, November 1, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the Tabor Mennonite Church – drive under the portico on the south side to pick up your meal. Please RSVP by October 28 to Bethesda Home at 620.367.2291.

Current and upcoming devotionals (*Upper Room & Rejoice!*) are available in the NE entryway for purchase.

Thank you for your generous support of our College Scholarship Fundraiser last Sunday. Your contributions totaled \$3,404 and are greatly appreciated. ~Carol Duerksen, MCSMT Treasurer

CONFERENCE PRAYER REQUESTS

Western District Conference

Pray for pastors in WDC, as they provide congregational leadership and care during challenging times.

Mennonite Mission Network

Pray for Mennonite Mission Network's partner DOOR and UpNext, DOOR's mentorship program for young women of color desiring to explore the intersection of faith and justice. Pray for these young adult leaders and their mentors to make a positive impact in their communities as they apply faith-based leadership models.

COMMUNITY & CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Mennoscah

A recording of Camp Mennoscah's annual meeting is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/gWLZ8tXyBcM> and soon on Camp Mennoscah's Facebook page.

Another Work and Play Day at Camp Mennoscah has been completed! Thank you to all the volunteers for the work done and your great company. Your support is valued more than you might imagine. (And think BIG x 100.) You are the greatest!

Camp Mennoscah is a year-round campground! Ask about winterized facilities or conquer the prairie wilds in a tent. It's a whole new world in the winter--and available for you! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 to make a reservation.

Western District Conference

The **Tabor Church Mennonite Men** would like to invite everyone to the **annual chicken barbeque** on **Nov. 5** from 5-7 pm or until the food runs out. This year it will be a to-go pick up meal. The menu is bbq chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner roll and ice cream and the food will taste great as usual. From the south end of the east parking lot please drive around the south side of the church under the overhang to place your donation and pick up your meal(s). The funds raised will go to Mennonite Central Committee and Bethesda Home in Goessel. The church is located 8 miles north of Newton to 90th then 1 mile east or 3 miles south and 1 east of Goessel.

Thumbnail Comparison of Candidates on Immigration policy, asylum, and deportation: The WDC Immigration Task Force invites you to review this brief comparison between the presidential candidates on immigration issues here: <https://mennoniteswithoutborders.org/blog/candidates-immigration-policies/>. We voters are the voice for the voiceless. "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom that is prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25.34-35).

Connect! Faith Formation in Challenging Times: Join Kathy Neufeld Dunn (WDC Associate Conference Minister, Kansas Based) Saturday, October 24, 9-11 am CT on Zoom or Facebook Live on WDC Facebook page for ideas of how to connect with the story of Jesus and with God--how to connect your church folk, yourself, and the curious. Before the pandemic, people were already going online for info and interaction. Now faith formation online is one tool we have to have in our faith formation toolbox. How do we do this with integrity? Want to join via Zoom? Request the link at wdc@mennowdc.org.

Mennonite Central Committee WDC/SCC Women's Retreat 2020:

MCC's Seed program has positions available now in Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador! The Seed program is perfect for young adults (18-30) who value service, community, and cultural exchange addressing systemic issues like food insecurity and climate change through grassroots, community-based initiatives. For more information, visit mcc.org/seed or email abbyendashaw@mcc.org.

Mask ask! MCC is responding to a request from people on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in southeastern Montana for cloth face masks to help stop the spread of COVID-19. If you would like to sew masks, please use the following guidelines:

- Adult sized
- Use at least 2 layers of good quality cotton fabric (solid colors preferred)
- Elastic ear loops
- Nose wire/filter pockets optional

Please ship purchased or completed masks to the MCC Central States Material Resources Center (Attn: Kate Mast) at 121 East 30th Street, North Newton, KS 67117, or drop off in the 24 hour donation room at MCC by **November 15th**. They will all be collected and transported to Montana in time for the winter season. Questions? Please contact katemast@mcc.org.

Bethel College

If you registered for the 2020 Bethel College Menno Simons Lectures online, don't forget to tune in! The overall series title is "Towards an Anabaptist Catholicity," with César García, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference.

Lecture 1: "Anabaptist Catholicity: A Definition," Sun., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. (live online with Q&A to follow)

Lecture 2: "Anabaptist Catholicity as Centripetal Force," Mon., Oct. 26, 11 a.m. (pre-recorded as part of the college Convocation series, <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/convocation-lectures/convocation>)

Lecture 3: "Anabaptist Catholicity as Centrifugal Force," Mon., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. (live online with Q&A to follow)

[If reading this before the end of the day Friday, Oct. 23, the registration link is <https://forms.gle/t55EqjrttWn4md8A> All registered participants will receive the Zoom link a day or so before the series begins.]

Last week to see "Forthcoming," photography by David Long, in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College (exhibit closes Fri., Oct. 30). Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. *Face coverings must be worn on the Bethel campus; events subject to change according to current COVID status.*

Thurs., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. – The KIPCOR Peace Lecture series presents journalist and best-selling author Sarah Smarsh, in an online format. Smarsh is the author of two acclaimed books on poverty and class in America, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* and, just released, *She Come By It Natural: Dolly Parton and the Women Who Lived Her Songs*. **To register for the Zoom link, go to kipcor.org, click on the event and scroll down to the "Register Now" button.**

Mennonite Church USA

Pastor Sandy Drescher-Lehman and her husband, John, realized that when they stepped out of the way, God began a good work – right in their own backyard. Read their blog, "**Hosting Hipcampers: Is this missional? Or spiritual?**" at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/hipcampers>.

A **new video series** from Mennonite Church USA showcases the stories of Mennonites who are advocating for immigration justice and demonstrating radical hospitality. Visit the Learn, Pray, Join web page for these and other resources: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/immigration/>.

Safwat Marzouk, associate professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, urges us to consider how the demographic changes in North America are providing an opportunity to recover a biblical vision of the church. Read his blog, "**A church that embodies immigration justice and radical hospitality**" at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/church-embodies-immigration-justice-radical-hospitality/>

Giving Tuesday 2020 is Dec. 1. Live out your call to participate in and support the work of God. Visit MennoniteMission.net/GivingTuesday.