

## 1/15/22 WORSHIP SERVICE

### WELCOME – PASTOR LOIS HARDER

Welcome!... We're grateful to have David Boshart with us this morning from the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart. The last time Dave was with us he joined us by zoom for Caleb's ordination; I'm so glad you can be here in-person this morning. Thank you for being here.

What are the opportunities for service and celebration you'd like to share this morning?

- This Friday, January 20 at Sr. Coffee will offer a wonderful opportunity for celebration. Susan Mayo, Steve Hanneman and Bob Delk will come and play music. If you've ever heard them play you know that they are all top-notch musicians who absolutely love to make music – they have so much fun! And their joy is contagious. I hope you can come and join us on Friday morning at 10:00 for some great music and fellowship.

Before we speak our Call to Worship – words of the Apostle Paul, I'd like to share a few words of the great writer and thinker, and civil rights advocate, W.E.B. Du Bois – in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and the on-going work for understanding between people. This is Du Bois' credo – his statement of beliefs, published in 1904. I feel like it's still remarkably contemporary and, in fact, right in line with Paul:

I believe in God who made of one blood all races that dwell on earth. I believe that all men, black and white, are brothers, varying through Time and Opportunity, in form and gift and feature, but differing in no essential particular, and alike in soul and in the possibility of infinite development.

Especially do I believe in the Negro Race: in the beauty of its genius, the sweetness of its soul, and its strength in that meekness which shall yet inherit this turbulent earth.

I believe in pride of race and lineage and self; in pride of self so deep as to scorn injustice to other selves; in pride of lineage so great as to despise no man's father; in pride of race so chivalrous as neither to offer bastardy to the weak nor beg wedlock of the strong, knowing that men may brothers in Christ, even though they be not brother-in-law.

I believe in Service – humble reverent service, from the blackening of boots to the whitening of souls; for Work is Heaven, Idleness is Hell, and Wage is the "Well done!" of the Master who summoned all them that labor and are heavy laden, making no distinction between the black sweating cotton-hands of Georgia and the First Families of Virginia, since all distinction not based on deed is devilish and not divine.

I believe in the Devil and his angels, who wantonly work to narrow the opportunity of struggling human beings, especially if they be black; who spit in the faces of the fallen, strike

them that cannot strike again, believe the worst and work to prove it, hating the image which their Maker stamped on a brother's soul.

I believe in the Prince of Peace. I believe that War is Murder. I believe that armies and navies are at bottom the tinsel and braggadocio of oppression and wrong; and I believe that the wicked conquest of weaker and darker nations by nations whiter and stronger but foreshadows the death of that strength.

I believe in Liberty for all men: the space to stretch their arms and their souls; the right to breathe and the right to vote, the freedom to choose their friends, enjoy the sunshine and ride on the railroads, uncursed by color; thinking, dreaming, working as they will in the kingdom of God and love.

I believe in the training of children, black even as white; the leading out of little souls into the green pastures and beside the still waters, not for pelf or peace, but for Life lit by some large vision of beauty and goodness and truth; lest we forget, and the sons of the fathers, like Esau, for mere meat barter their birthright in a mighty nation.

Finally, I believe in Patience – patience with the weakness of the Weak and the strength of the Strong, the prejudice of the Ignorant and the ignorance of the Blind; patience with the tardy triumph of Joy and the mad chastening of Sorrow – patience with God.

And now, together, let's turn to our Call to Worship:

All: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Thank you, God, for the generous gift of your grace, your kindness and the power to do your work. Help us live lives transformed by your grace, to overflow with grace for those around us.

All: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Thank you, Jesus, for being our peace; for reconciling us to God and each other. Fill us with the wholeness you give and your peace to share with others.

All: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer – O God, we acknowledge and give thanks for your Holy Spirit here with us as we worship. May that Spirit move in our midst, clear and settle our minds, fill and heal our spirits, challenge and encourage our wills to live out your will – on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Offering Prayer – Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we ask that you bless these financial gifts as well as the gifts of our time and energy and passions as we return them to you as act of love and worship. Amen.

## INTRODUCTION OF DAVE – PASTOR CALEB YODER

Good morning, everyone.

I'd like to say a word of introduction for our guest preacher who will be bringing this morning's message.

David Boshart is entering his fourth year as president at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN.

I know him because he was pastor at my home congregation in Iowa, West Union, during the years of my youth. He taught the baptism class I was in and baptized me.

I also got to know him better when I did an internship at my church in college, and we have kept in touch over the years.

Dave is in the area, representing the seminary, and I am thrilled that he is able to join us this morning, bring words that he has discerned in God's Spirit.

## MORNING PRAYER

Loving God,

You are our creator and redeemer. You give us a firm place to stand. You put a new song in our mouths. You enable all who trust in you – no matter what race, background, or status – to walk in peace, and to overcome.

You have indeed enriched us in your grace with many gifts. Help us to identify the gifts that are among us and use them to build up the body of Christ that we make visible in Goessel, Kansas.

We thank you for your great love and acknowledge that our lives fall far short of embodying the love that is incarnate in Jesus.

Forgive us, and give us a sense of unity of mind and purpose as we seek to follow Jesus together.

You hear our prayers before we speak them. We pray for our congregation and for those dear to us.

We joyfully celebrate the birth of little Mia Noel Unruh-Siebert, born to Braden and Jill. You are present in these moments of joy at beholding the wonder of birth and new human life.

We pray for this new family and extended family. We pray for health for Mia and her parents, and for their recovery.

We likewise rejoice with Leona Schroeder who welcomes a great-granddaughter, Josephine Leona, born into her family.

As viral infections continue unabated this winter, we pray for those who continue to battle illness during these winter months.

We remember those who deal with depression or anxiety during these months as well, praying for thoughts of connection and of hope.

We are called to be a people set apart, along with all those around the world who call on the name of Jesus Christ.

We pray for the many efforts some of us are involved in preparing for the annual MCC sale that will be in April. As this work ramps up, we pray for energy, motivation, and cooperation.

We pray for the folks in California, Georgia, and Alabama that have been dealing with excessive rain, causing flooding, property loss, and even loss of life.

Be with those affected by these losses and work through all the efforts to respond compassionately to this event.

We pray for a wave of cultural change so that we might live more lightly on this planet and refrain from continuing to stoke climate change that is making extreme events more likely.

We give thanks, God, for movements like the Civil Rights movement that have worked for justice out of a deep conviction that the image of God is in each and every person. We thank you for the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and others who have carried on this work despite the forces of intimidation and hate.

We pray for courage to be able to perceive the injustice in our world and respond with love out of the riches of the gospel of Jesus.

May your uncontrolling love empower all who would join in this labor of peace-making, and for clarity of the gifts each one of us has to offer.

We pray for Dave Boshart, as he offers the message that you have given him by your Spirit and the words of the Scriptures. Give us ears to hear what your Spirit is saying.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus our great teacher, Amen.

## BENEDICTION

*2 Cor 13:11, 14 NIV*

Bothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. The God of love and peace will be with you.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.