

10-29-2023 Worship Service

Welcome –

Good morning! It seems the seasons have CHANGED! Glad to be together this morning and a warm welcome is extended to everyone worshipping with us – in person or on-line.

Opportunities for Celebration or Service?

This morning we'll think about the mandate from Jesus to live our lives in ways that glorify God and invite those we meet into God's kingdom. The **opening words** are both a call to worship and a prayer that can help us focus on Jesus' words and ways – I invite you to join in.

One: Holy God, you call us together to reflect on your Word and our life in your world.

Many: Be with us now as we sing and pray together, that we may hear your voice and understand your way.

All: *This we pray through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.*

Morning Prayer –

O God, thank you for this Sabbath day – for time that you created in the rhythm of our lives to rest, to establish and notice a different pattern from other days, to gather as your people for fellowship, for learning and for worshipping you together. Help us to slow down our racing minds, to quiet our anxious thoughts, to open our spirits to your Spirit so that we can follow where you lead us. In these moments, we breathe deeply to take in the wonder of your love and care for us and for all of creation.

Thank you God for the rains that have come. We pray that the moisture will nourish the earth and bring abundant goodness. We pray for those who live in places where drought is ongoing and severe. We thank you God for the work of Mennonite Central Committee in places around the world where there is not enough. We're especially grateful for their meat canning operation and those who worked this week to help can meat. We ask your blessing on that food and those who will receive it; may they know your love through that effort.

Thank you as well for Mennonite Disaster Service and the many ways they show your love and shine your light in this world. Thank you especially for Delbert and Tim, and for others from this congregation who have worked with MDS – bless Delbert and Tim as they share with us this morning.

Lord, we thank you for our students and teachers as they work hard doing their best to learn and teach, stretch and grow, the students trying to reach their potential and the teachers giving them support and tools that they need. We pray for strength and stamina for all of them, for joy and accomplishment in the midst of struggle and hard work. May each of them know your love in their lives.

We pray for those we know and love who are ill or recovering, those who may be in treatment or anticipating procedures. We pray especially for Lois Janzen as she heals from her

fall last week. Give her comfort and relief. We continue to pray for Steve Banman as he receives treatment in this clinical trial. Give him strength and stamina.

God of peace with justice, we continue to pray for Palestinians and Israelis who are in the midst of the unspeakable horrors of hate and fear. We pray for Ukrainians and Russians, for your children in this world who are caught in violence that they neither caused nor can control. We pray for the day when your reign of peace with justice will come to fruition in its fullness. Until that time, grant us courage and wisdom as we try to be faithful followers of Jesus, the prince of peace, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Laurien – will you come and read this morning’s scripture for us, please?

Offering Prayer – We offer our gifts, dear God, these gifts of money, the gift of our time and energy, our skills and talents – all gifts that you have given us. Accept these in return, with gratitude and to bring you glory. Amen.