

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Worship Guide for November 11, 2018 “Experience Transformation”

Lighting the Peace Lamp: We light the peace lamp weekly as a reminder that there is violence and suffering in the world. As a faith community, we pray for peace and act for peace.

Call to Worship:

The Holy Spirit is God’s transforming power. God’s Spirit is the flame of God’s Love, the unseen Wind of God’s movement within the church and world. Transformation is rarely smooth, or simple, or easy. Transformation may prove to be disruptive in our lives. Worship is intended as a sacred space in our time where we encounter the transforming and disrupting power of the Spirit.

Invocation: God of Love, we thank You for gathering us together on this day and in this place. We are especially grateful to be gathered into Christ’s body with many members, but one Lord. We welcome Your Holy Spirit to dwell in and among us today. Breathe upon us, granting us inspiration and insight. Ignite us to act upon what is revealed as we are transformed in Your Presence.

Holy Spirit, dwell among us.

Holy Spirit, dwell within us.

Holy Spirit, come as fire.

Holy Spirit, come as wind.

Holy Spirit, blow upon the embers of our hearts.

Holy Spirit, ignite us with passion.

Holy Spirit, gather us as one. Then

Holy Spirit, send us forth into the world. Amen.

Praise Hymn: “Holy Spirit, Come with Power.” #26 in Hymnal: A Worship Book

Prayer of Confession: (ALL)

Spirit of the Living God, we confess that we live in a world of cold rationality, order, paper reports, computers, and busyness as usual that encroaches upon worship. Too often worship has become so routine and rote that we can walk through it with our eyes blindfolded. We cling for dear life to our order of worship lest Your Spirit of disorder enter and disrupt what we have planned for ourselves. Come, Holy Disrupter, and break in upon us with Divine surprise. Rip open the veil that covers our eyes and unsettle us with sacred joy! Amen.

Assurance of the Holy Spirit’s Presence:

“The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8 (NRSV)

Prayer Hymn: “Spirit of God, Descend,” # 502 in Hymnal: A Worship Book

Prayer for Illumination: (ALL)

Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts and minds. Open our ears to hear Your Word with a new freshness. Open our minds and illuminate Your Truth for our day and time. Empower our hands and feet to live our Your Word concretely within our troubled world. We pray in the Name of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading the Word: “In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as He was coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on Him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.’ ” Mark 1:9-11 (NRSV)

Proclaiming the Word: “Sermon Seeds” (All may feel welcome to share.)

1. Jesus’ baptism took place at the beginning of His public ministry and His Divine commission and anointing for mission and ministry. Explore how our baptism was our commission and anointing by God’s Holy Spirit for mission and ministry and how the church as a whole is ordained to mission and to minister to the world.
2. Traditionally, we have thought of the Holy Spirit as the Divine Comforter. Jesus’ baptism by the Spirit sent Him forth to interrupt “religion as usual,” to challenge established religious authority, and to “turn the world upside down.” Share how the Holy Spirit in the account of Jesus as “Divine Disruptor and Discomforter” still moves us today.
3. Jesus’ baptism by the Spirit was His transformation from being a carpenter in Galilee to be an empowered Servant of God. Discuss how the Holy Spirit empowers and gifts us as servants of the Living God in a needy and hurting world.

Affirmation of Faith: (Unison) (from “Renewed Commitments for MC USA)

The Holy Spirit dwells in and among us, transforming us to reflect God’s Love. Through worship, the Spirit gathers the body of Christ, where our diversity reveals God’s beauty. The Spirit empowers our communities to embody grace, joy, and peace of the Gospel.

Offering.

Blessing the Offering: (All)

We offer to you, giving God, not only our monetary gifts to extend the work of Your reign of justice, peace, and mercy, but we also offer the many spiritual gifts that Your Spirit has showered upon us that are meant to serve the common good of Your church and the world at large. Bless these offerings to these divine ends, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Rain Down,” # 49 in Sing the Journey

Sending: May God pour the blessings of heaven upon you! May Christ fill you with Living Waters! May God’s Holy Spirit rain down God’s Love upon all people everywhere!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Everyone is invited to stay for a pizza lunch after worship today. Lunch will be followed by the second of our Visioning Workshops with Sharon Waltner.
2. Thank you to all who donated food to Feeding South Dakota, a total of 165 pounds.
3. Pray for MC USA and congregations using the Journey Forward Pathways study guide for exploring how we can live out the core values of our faith in today’s world.
4. Pray also for the Women Doing Theology conference at AMBS in Elkhart Nov. 8-10.
5. The carpet is scheduled to be cleaned on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 9 AM. Chairs and tables will need to be taken down and set aside before that day. Your help will be appreciated.

Share the sign of Christ’s peace with each other as you depart for lunch.