

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church Worship Guide for Nov. 4, 2018 "Witness to God's Peace"

Light 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: Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Invocation: God of justice and peace, we acknowledge that we take a risk each time we come before you in worship. You desire justice, kindness, and humility more than hymns of praise or the offerings of the fruit of our labors. With what shall we come before you today as an offering, if it is not our very lives bound to do justice and peace? We humbly ask that you accept our worship today as it is in harmony with the embodiment of your Word in our daily lives. Amen.

Praise Hymn: "What does the Lord require" #409 HWB

Prayer of Confession Sung Response

"Kyrie Eleison" #144 HWB

We confess, loving God, that we have been quick to judge others but slow to forgive our neighbors, let alone our enemies.

Sing: Kyrie eleison

We have often engaged in division and strife in our personal lives and among our churches.

Sing: Kyrie eleison

We have accepted peace as not going to war but have neglected to do justice for the poor and marginalized.

Sing: Kyrie eleison

We, who are called a people of peace, are in desperate need of your mercy and forgiveness.

Sing: Kyrie eleison

Assurance of Forgiveness: Philippians 4:7

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hymn: "We are people of God's peace" #407 HWB

Reading the Word: Ephesians: 2:14-17

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Proclaiming the Word: " Broken Walls, Crossed Borders; a meditation on Ephesians 2: 12-22"
by Leo Harshorn www://leohartshorn.blogspot.com

Confessing Our Faith: (from *Renewed Commitments for MC USA*)

We are called to extend God's holistic peace,
proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives.
Through Christ, God frees the world from sin and offers reconciliation.

We bear witness to this gift of peace
by rejecting violence and resisting injustice
in all forms, and in all places.

Blessing the Offering:

We will not forget the words of Isaiah, God of justice, as we offer our monetary gifts. So we also offer to you the gifts of peacemaking and justice, seeking to embody them in our lives, lest we worship in vain. Accept these gifts as but a small token of our desire for a world in which the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the homeless are sheltered, enemies are reconciled, and justice reigns over the land: Through the Prince of Peace, even Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Sharing and Prayer Time

Sending: Isaiah 55:12

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Sending Hymn: "You shall go out with joy" #427 HWB

Share with one another the sign of Christ's peace as you depart

Announcements:

1. Everyone is invited to stay for a Salad Lunch after worship today. Lunch will be followed by the first of our Visioning Workshops with Sharon Waltner.
2. Next Sunday, Nov. 11 will be the second of our Visioning Workshops after worship and lunch. Lunch will be provided. See Sherri for details.
3. Pray for MC USA and congregations using the Journey Forward Pathways study guide for exploring how we live out the core values of our faith in today's world.
4. Pray also for the Women Doing Theology conference planned at AMBS in Elkhart, IN November 8-10
5. The carpet will be cleaned at SMMC on Wednesday, November 14 at 9 a.m.. Chairs and tables will need to be taken down and set aside before that day.