

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
July 12, 2020

RECONCILIATION IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORK

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP/CANDLE Sherri

We still continue to pray for peace and act for peace. Martin Luther King Jr said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

GREETINGS Sherri

May grace and peace be with you and welcome to all of you to this worship service. Let us greet each other and share the sign of peace with one another.

WELCOME Sherri

This is the second Sunday of our Anabaptist Learning Month. Today our worship will center on the gifts and challenges of **reconciling with ourselves**. We all are complex and contradictory beings, shaped by a mixture of experiences, forces, and possibilities beyond our control. Our outward appearances of confidence might cover the inner realities of sadness, shame, and pain. The focus of today’s reconciling work begins with seeing ourselves as God sees us: as beloved daughters and sons who are amazing and contradictory, who have gifts and graces, delusions, temptations, and sins. Today we will worship God, who has known us from when we were in our mothers’ wombs and loves us beyond our death.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Speak in the language closest to your heart) Sherri

Leader: Hear, O people, our powerful, holy, merciful, and sovereign God is one. /
Escucha, oh pueblo, nuestro poderoso, santo, misericordioso, y soberano Dios es uno.

All: And we will love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. / Y amaremos a nuestro Dios con todo nuestro corazón, alma, mente, y fuerza y nuestros vecinos como nosotros mismos.

Leader: Do this and you will live. / Haz esto y vivirás.

SONGS	There is a place of quiet rest	Dennis lead	HWB 5
	Create in Me a Clean Heart	Dennis lead	STS 62
			vs 1,3,4

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jim

Our prayer closes with a prayer of confession. God of compassion and grace, thank you for the gift of life that you breathe in us day by day. You call us each by name and hold us in your care. When we lose our way and forget who we are, your Spirit leads us back to your unending love. Thank you for not giving up on us. Thank you for creating a new heart and spirit in us. Thank you for calling us beloved daughter and son.

Today we pray for the families, friends, and communities that have suffered from gun violence. Our hearts and spirits cry out that once again the will of one person inflicts violence on many, cutting their lives short and sowing anguish and grief.

We pray for the safety of all the residents of our community, especially our neighbors who are vulnerable because of their racial and ethnic identities. Send your Spirit to show us how to strengthen the bonds of neighborliness in our community so that everyone can live in peace and be unafraid.

Empower us by your Spirit to know and do what is our part to help bring safety and peace

We pray for brothers and sisters in this congregation who need your special care . . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim

God, you call us to a ministry of reconciliation and send us as your ambassadors into the world, yet we are not prepared to do this work. And so, in confession we pray:

We confess that we get in the way of your reconciling work in our world. Our words are often spoken with disrespect and violence. We want others to yield to our viewpoints. We hang on to our grudges. Our actions often hurt the people and creatures that you love. We fail to see your image in the people with whom we disagree. Our patience falters when the work of restoring relationships gets hard. God, we pray for the Spirit of Jesus to work among us these next weeks. Open our minds, hearts, and spirits, that we may grow in maturity and humility. Prepare us to take up the work of reconciliation for the sake of this world that you so love. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SONG

Just as I Am, without One Plea

(CD – Cheryl) STJ 92

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:2-10, the story of Zacchaeus

Marilyn

REFLECTION ON THE STORY

Sherri

What word or phrase in this story caught your attention?

When have you been at odds with yourself?

When have you been torn between what seems right but impossible?

SONG	Zaccheus was a wee little man	(CD-Sherri)
MESSAGE		Sherri
SONG	Amazing Grace!	(CD-Sherri) HWB 143
OFFERING PRAYER		Sherri
OFFERTORY	I Will Come to You in the Silence	(CD-Cheryl) STS 49
WORDS OF INTENTION AND PROMISE		Sherri
<p>In response to God's call to be agents of reconciliation, we speak these words of intention and promise.</p> <p><i>As Christians united with Christ, we are called to participate in God's reconciling work in our world. We offer ourselves as servants of God's peace, who will listen with the ears and heart of God, speak God's forgiveness, mercy, justice, and grace, lead with God's strong yet tender compassion, and reflect God's steadfast love and kindness.</i></p> <p><i>Como cristianos unidos con Cristo, estamos llamados Como siervos de la paz de Dios nos ofrecemos, a escuchar con los oídos hablar del perdón, la misericordia, la justicia y la gracia de Dios, liderar con la fuerte pero tierna compasión de Dios, y reflejan el amor y la firme bondad de Dios.</i></p>		
SHARING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Sherri
BENEDICTION AND CLOSING SONG	Peace Before Us	(CD-Cheryl) STS 16