

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH  
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

**PEACE SUNDAY**

**THEME** When one member suffers, all members suffer: Peace as accompaniment and solidarity.

**PRELUDE** O Prince of Peace by Dhuh Pangeran (YouTube Video)

**PEACE SUNDAY LETTER**

**LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP/CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 85:8-10

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN** We are people of God's peace HWB 407

**INTRODUCTION**

**SOLIDARITY ARTICLE**

**WALKING WITH THE HURTING**

See Insert

The following are questions in which congregations could explore together during the service:

- Who are the hurting within "our" world? Think about the immediate reality of your community and contacts, then move out to broader circles.
- No one else can accompany the people who are immediately around you. How are we walking with them?
- How does Jesus' peace call us to be with them?

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** 1 Corinthians 12:12–27  
Ephesians 4:1–6

Ruth 1:1–17  
Galatians 6:1–5

**HYMN** You're not alone

See Insert

**TESTIMONY**

Mitsuru Ishido

**SONG**

Peace in my heart

(YouTube Video)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**SHARING/CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

**PANDEMIC PRAYER**

See Insert

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HYMN**

Now go in peace

STJ 74

**BENEDICTION**

Why this theme was chosen:

If we are interested in embodying God's peace and justice in this world, what happens to one affects and should also matter to others.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for everyone who has been affected by Covid-19. For those who have died; for those who have been ill; for the family members that this has affected; for those whose jobs and livelihoods have been affected by the economic downturn that this pandemic has caused; for all of us as our lives and our "normals" have changed.

- We lament systemic racism that leads to killings and daily indignities for people of colour. We grieve the violent actions by both protesters and law enforcement. We confess the lack of equity and justice that at times from characterizes our own responses. We acknowledge the long, intercontinental roots of racism that include complicity in the slave trade. Creator God, reach into our hearts and our troubled world to bring repentance and right relationships!

- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Hong Kong as they experience significant upheaval and conflict in its relations to mainland China.

- Praise God for the evangelistic fervour and faithfulness of our brothers and sisters in Africa.

With economic challenges, severe climate events and diseases like malaria compounding the threat of COVID-19, they continue to worship God and serve their neighbours with what means they have, sharing the gospel in word and deed.

#### PRAYER FOR PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

By Cameron Bellm, from A Consoling Embrace: Prayers for a Time of Pandemic by Cameron Bellm. Published by Twenty-Third Publications, 2020