

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
JANUARY 10, 2021

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Prelude

Lighting of the Peace lamp/candle

Call to worship

God is present in this place! We come together in corporate worship for personal reflection, for communion with others, and for experiencing the life-changing presence of our God. As we join in worship together, allow your thoughts to be focused on God, whose presence provides sufficiently, even abundantly, for our needs. May it be so today and every day.

Hymn

Lord, thou dost love

HWB 387

Responsive reading (based on Psalm 16) (from Resources for worship planners, by Christine Longhurst)

Keep me safe, O God, for I come to you for refuge.

In your presence, O God, is joy and contentment. Show me the path that leads to life.

You are my Lord. Every good thing I have comes from you.

In your presence, O God, I find joy and contentment. Show me the path that leads to life.

I bless the Lord, whose wise teaching guides my days and centers my mind at night. God is always present with me. I will not live in fear, or abandon my calling, for his presence surrounds me wherever I go.

In your presence, O God, I find joy and contentment. Show me the path that leads to life.

So my heart is glad, my soul is full of joy and contentment, and my body is at rest. Who could ask for anything more?

In your presence, O God, I find joy and contentment. Show me the path that leads to life.

Invocation

Holy God – We invite you into our midst. We pray that you would help us to find our contentment in you – contentment greater than what the world can provide. We pray that our contentment in you will satisfy our longing for enough. As we worship, sing, pray and meet you in this place, we ask for your spirit to move within us. Quiet our hearts. Help us to hear a word from you. THE word that you want us to hear. Amen.

Scripture:

Proverbs 30:7-9a

Sermon

Prayer of confession (from Words for Worship, by Arlene Mark, page 177)

Almighty God, source of all life, giver of all that is good, we gather to offer our praise and thanks. The richness of our lives, when we stop to take measure, is more than we can comprehend. We have blessings of joy and hope, the challenge to labor and the luxury of leisure. Your world is full of wonder, and its beauty delights us. We praise your generosity and confess that we are ungenerous receivers. We are slow to share and quick to squander. We take for granted what we have and anticipate more. Give us an awareness of our blessings so that we will share joyously and live responsibly. Give us a sense self-worth so that getting things does not usurp other values. For all your goodness, let us express our gratitude by genuinely caring for our world through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

God whose giving

HWB 383

Offering (from Suscipe by Saint Ignatius)

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; That is enough for me.

Sharing and congregational prayer

Announcements

Hymn

We give thee, but thine own

HWB 384

Benediction: A prayer for vision (from Sir Francis Drake, 1577)

Disturb us, Lord, When we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. Amen.

The worship service today was prepared by Everence and led by Sherri Donaldson, the Everence Stewardship Advocate for Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church.