

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH
VIRTURAL WORSHIP SERVICE
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

LENT 1

Deep in the sea: Called to deep relationship

FOCUS STATEMENT

The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP

INTRODUCTION TO LENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Schumachers)

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

Many: into unknown waters.

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the water, the waters of baptism,

Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.

THEME SONG Your Love is washing over me

(Dennis)

VT 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

(Schumachers)

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface, avoiding you, avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads. Needing you, needing our neighbors. (Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep relationship.) Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17

(Cathy)

Psalms 25:1-10

(Cheryl)

Mark 1:9-15

(Marilyn)

1 Peter 3:18-22

(John)

HYMN

O love, how deep, how broad

(Bernette)

VT 303

CHILDRENS TIME

(Sherri)

RESPONSE RITUAL

(Sherri)

- How is God calling you to deep relationship?
- God calls you “Beloved”; what name do you give to God?

HYMN Oceans

(Dennis)

VT 456

OFFERING PRAYER

(Sherri)

SHARING/CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

(Jim)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Sherri)

HYMN As I went down to the river to pray

(Dennis)

VT 453

SENDING BLESSING

(Sherri)

The divine calls for us to move beyond the shallows of our lives into deep relationship. God requires our trust and vulnerability as we reach out to a neighbor, bursting the surface bubbles of our lives and striving for deeper understanding. Go into the week before you, reaching out for a story far beyond your own, in love. Amen.