

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church
Worship Service
Sunday, March 14, 2021

WELCOME

FOCUS STATEMENT

The wilderness confronts us with our vulnerability and exposes our wounds and our needs. We are called to deep healing by trusting in God, who calls us in love.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP/CANDLE

VT 1006

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The wilderness is without and within. It too is part of God's path, though we fear wild, barren places, as did the people of old.

Many: When the people became impatient, asking, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" God answered by bringing healing.

One: In our barren places, God calls us to wholeness, even when we cannot see beyond the danger, isolation, and need.

Many: We forget that God is already at work in these difficult, painful places.

One: Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Chosen One be lifted up, that whoever believes may have eternal life.

Many: For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper healing.

THEME HYMN: "Your Love is Washing Over Me"

VT 166

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

One: We confess how the wilderness has revealed our need, uncovering our impatience, lifting up our pain. We confess how the wilderness has revealed your truth. We are created for good works. We can turn and live. (Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep healing.) Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 2:1-10

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

HYMN

"Calm Me Lord"

VT 680

MESSAGE REFLECTIONS

Stories taken from MMN website

RESPONSE RITUAL

- How is God calling you to deep healing?
- What in your life needs God's healing today?

HYMN

"O Healing River"

VT 706

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

OFFERING May our gifts to you Lord be an offering of love and thanksgiving for the healings in our lives and the blessings you have given us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

VT 644

SENDING BLESSING

Through the barren lands of our lives, God is calling us to wholeness. Although we may not see this time as possibility, God is already at work. As we rest in the long nights of winter, a cosmic spark restores us. Look to Christ in faith, noticing the many ways his words and eyes and hands and feet brought healing. Go with the healing light of Christ. Amen.