

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 7, 2021

LENT 3

Deep in the changing sky: Called to deep wisdom

FOCUS STATEMENT

In the patterns and glory of God's creation, and in God's commandments and promises, we are called to obtain deep wisdom. God's wisdom undermines our assumptions and takes us deeper than our efforts can lead us.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP/CANDLE also a time of celebration for
Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church's 44th anniversary (March 6, 1977).

SCRIPTURE Psalm 19

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 19)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Many: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech . . . yet the voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Many: In the heavens you set a tent for the sun. . . . Its rising is from the end of the heavens, its circuit to the end of them; nothing is hid from its heat.

One: The law of the Lord is perfect . . . sure . . . clear . . . true and righteous. The fear of the Lord is pure.

Many: God, clear us from hidden faults; teach us to trust you.

All: Let the words and meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and redeemer.

We call out to you, as you call us to deeper wisdom.

THEME SONG Your Love is Washing Over Me

VT 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

One: We confess when we have settled into sameness, forgetting the rhythms of the heavens, ignoring the rhythms of justice. We confess when we have not looked up into the eyes of a neighbor, into your Word that still lives. (Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep wisdom.) Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 20:1-17

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 2:13-22

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
SERMON/REFLECTIONS

RESPONSE RITUAL

- How is God calling you to deep wisdom?
- What area of your life needs God's wisdom?

HYMN Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom VT 196

OFFERING PRAYER

SHARING/CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION

HYMN God, Fill Me Now STS 63

SENDING BLESSING

The changing sky speaks about the larger rhythms of life. The moons and seasons that dance over the horizon reflect the language of the infinite. And when we notice our own smallness in relationship to the sky's expansiveness, only then do we begin to be wise. Go into this week in search of deep wisdom. Go with humility. Amen.