

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH  
AUGUST 1, 2021  
16<sup>th</sup> Century Anabaptist Spiritual Practices

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

Dennis

**LIGHTING OF THE PEACE LAMP**

Sherri

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sher/All

Leader: Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians all, and break forth into singing!

**People: Since far and wide on every side the Word of God is ringing.**

Leader: And well we know, no human foe our souls from Christ can sever;

**People: For to the base, and [those] of grace, God's Word stands sure forever.**

Leader: Praise God, praise God in unity, Ye Christian people sweetly,

**People: That he his Word has spread abroad— His Word, his work completely.**

Leader: No human hand can him with stand, no name how high soever;

**People: And sing we then our glad Amen! God's Word stands sure forever.**

**Note:** This call to worship consists of the first and last stanzas of a song attributed to Balthasar Hubmaier, an Anabaptist leader in Austria and Moravia who was burned at the stake in Vienna in 1528. (Balthasar Hubmaier, Theologian of Anabaptism, translated and edited by H. Wayne Pipkin and John H. Yoder, pp. 569-571)

**HYMN**

Our Father God, Thy Name We Praise

VT 45

Dennis

**Note:** According to the Hymnal Companion, p. 286, the German text of this hymn is “the second hymn sung in every Amish service.”

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Old Testament: Psalm 119:1-16

LuAnn

Gospel: Matthew 7:24-27

LuAnn

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

LuAnn

**Note:** These scripture readings all focus on the importance of the Word of God. You can also read Psalm 105.

**HYMN**

The Word of God Is Solid Ground

VT 399

Dennis

**Note:** This hymn comes from the Ausbund, the oldest Protestant hymnal in continuous use, still used by the Amish

**REFLECTIONS**

Sherri

**RESPONSE TIME TO REFLECTIONS AND SCRIPTURE**

Sher/All

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

I Sing with Exultation

VT 444

Dennis

**Note:** The hymn of response to the sermon is attributed to Felix Mantz, the first person martyred as an Anabaptist when he was drowned at Zurich on Jan. 5, 1527. Three years earlier, he quoted I Peter 2:21 to argue before the Zurich City

Council that “Christ has given us an example that as he has done so also ought we to do.” (The Sources of Swiss Anabaptism, edited by Leland Harder, p. 314.)

**CONFESSING FAITH** VT 921 Sher/All

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jim/All

**CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

**OFFERING PRAYER** VT 1017 Jim  
**OFFERTORY** Jesus Christ Is Love Divine VT 749 Dennis

**OPENING** Sher/All

**LEADER:** May the Lord be with you.

**PEOPLE:** And also with you.

**INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION** VT 936 Sherri

**PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION** Pledge of Love VT 937 Sher/All

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE** VT 939 Jim/All

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** VT 469 Jim/All

**COMMUNION PRAYER** VT 944 Sher/All

**PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT** VT 989A Sher/All

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** VT 904 Jim/All

**SHARE THE BREAD** Jim/All

**LEADER:** The body of Christ, given for you.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God..

**SHARE THE CUP**

Jim/All

**LEADER:** The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

**SILENT REFLECTIONS** All

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** VT 945 Jim/All

**SENDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jim/All

**CLOSING WORD** Sher/All

**Leader:** Be comforted you Christians and rejoice, through Jesus Christ forevermore, who gives us love and faith.

**People:** God comforts us through his holy word, on that we should rely.

**Note:** The closing word comes from a song attributed in the Ausbund to Annalein of Freiburg, who was drowned and then burned in 1529, though it likely was written by Ursula Hellrigel. (Profiles of Anabaptist Women, edited by C. Arnold Snyder and Linda A. Huebert Hecht, pp. 198-201)

**POSTLUDE** Dennis

**Note:** Some of this Sunday's worship materials were developed by Dale R. Schrag, Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee member and director of church relations at Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.

**Note:** The communion service order is a shared pattern used today that was inspired by early Christian sources.