

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church

March 6, 2022

Lent 1: From Security to Generosity

“As we seek God’s way, we move from prioritizing our personal security to living with generosity toward our neighbors.”

Gathering in God’s Power

Welcome (light the peace lamp)

Call to worship

Together we seek the way of God,

through the wilderness of Lent, through the wilderness of life.

We crave the safety of God’s shelter,

the cool comfort of the divine shadow, the security of the holy fortress.

God offers the care of angels,

the gentleness of creation, the protection of love.

God is generous to all who call on the holy name,

so come, let us seek God’s way of generosity.

VT 764 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues

Offertory prayer (Psalm 63 adapted)

O God, you are our God, we seek you, our soul thirsts for you, our flesh faints for you as in a dry and weary land.

Yet we have seen your glory, your steadfast love has poured over our lives,
our lips sing your praise.

We will bless you as long as we live.

Through the breath you have given, the words that we utter, the work of our minds and hands,
and the gifts of our inheritance,

*we give back to you so that all may sit in the shadow of your wings
and share the joy of your abundance. Amen.*

Hearing God’s Word

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13; Romans 10:8b-13

VT 307 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

Reflection Time

Responding to God’s Power

Sharing Time & Prayer

VT 716 God of Grace & God of Glory V.3

Litany for Ukraine, by Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director, MC USA

Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine,

As they seek refuge from the terrible effects of war.

May they find shelter in God's arm,

As they try to calm their fears.

May they find comfort in God's arm,

As they worry about where to find food and shelter.

May they find comfort in God's arm,

As they witness the death that war brings.

May they find solace in God's arm,

As they leave their homes behind to find safety.

May they find strength in God's arm.

Deliver us all from the madness of believing good can come from violence.

God hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to resist the myths of violence.

God hear our prayer.

Forgive us our pride as a super military power.

God hear our prayer.

Give us the compassion that gives birth to generosity and hospitality.

God hear our prayer.

Let us show love and mercy for those fleeing war.

God hear our prayer.

Mold us as a people of peace.

God hear our prayer. May God hear our prayers and the cry of the Ukrainian people.

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

We call upon you while you are near.

Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts,
and our ways are not your ways.

Forgive us for seeking security. Lead us into your way of generosity.

As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly
and follow your way more faithfully.

Assurance of pardon (Psalm 32 adapted)

Blessed are we whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed are we whose sins our God does not count against us.

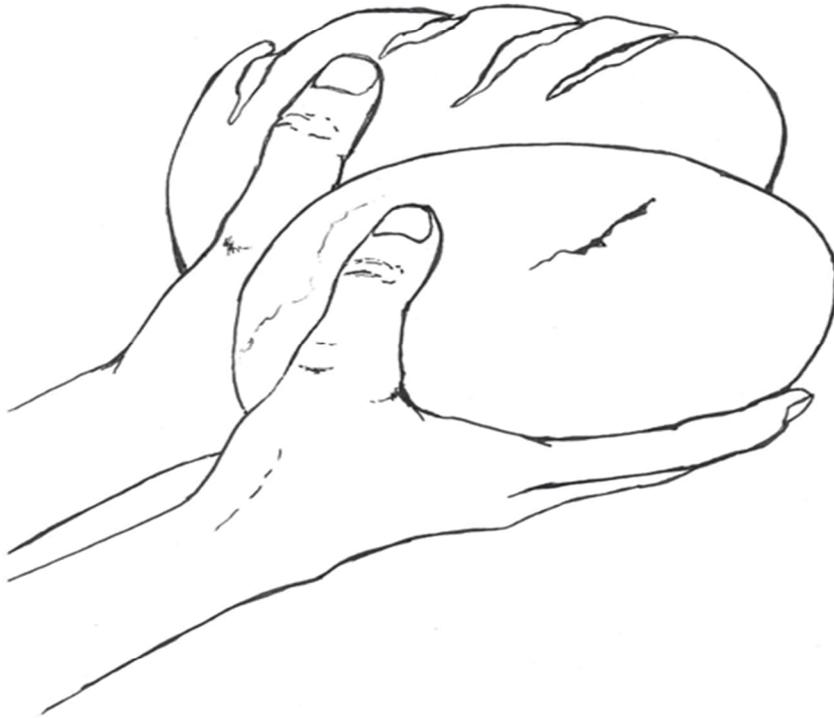
God's unfailing love surrounds those
who trust in the Holy One.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Sending on God's Behalf

Announcements

VT 832 The Lord Lift You Up



Lent 1

Reflection question: What are you holding onto tightly that can now be released, freeing you to be generous?