

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Lent 2: From Fear to Compassion

“As we seek God’s way, we move from a place where fear dictates our actions to a space where our response to others is guided by compassion.”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “Be a Sower” VT 789
Peace Lamp Lighting

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God.

People: As disappointment oppresses and violence threatens,

Leader: We come to ask: Whom shall we fear?

People: We come to be reminded of God’s power and to be led more deeply into God’s love.

Leader: We long to gather under the wings of Christ, as a mother hen,

All: and to learn the holy way of compassion.

Hymn: “The God of Sarah Praise” VT 190

PROCLAIMING

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Luke 13:31-35 (Look at the line drawing during this reading)

Hymn: “When Twilight Comes” (read together) VT 501

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Reflection and Meditation “Six Sugar Beets”

RESPONDING

Responsive Reading

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God’s ways.

All: Lord, move us away from fearful responses into the light of your compassion.

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

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

People: We call upon you while you are near.

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

People: Forgive us for living with fear. Help us live out compassion.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,
let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayer

Hymn: "When the Storms of Life are Raging" VT 595

Sharing Joys/Care for Others Congregational Prayer

Hymn: "The Lord is My Light" VT 437
Offering and prayer

Announcements Sending

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.