

SERMON ON THE MOUNT MENNONITE CHURCH

MARCH 27, 2022

LENT 4: FROM EXCEPTIONALISM TO INCLUSION

“As we seek God’s way, we move from a sense that “we” and “ours” have special standing to the knowledge that all are equally part of God’s kingdom.”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

PEACE LAMP LIGHTING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.

Leader: From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,

People: but through Jesus we learn that all share in God’s inheritance.

Leader: Let us join God’s feast,

People: where all celebrate together.

All: Let us live out God’s way of inclusion.

HYMN

Fill Us with Your Feast

VT 309

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

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!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

COMMENTARY

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who gets to enjoy God’s feast today?

RESPONDING

RESPONSIVE HYMN

Far, Far Away / I Will Arise

VT 300

RESPONSIVE READING

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

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

One: We seek God's ways.

All: Lord, move us from our tribal thinking to your radical inclusion.

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 thinking we deserve special treatment. Lead us to radical inclusion.

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

SHARING JOYS/CARE FOR OTHERS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

OFFERING AND PRAYER

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

VT 347

SENDING

