

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 29, 2012

Our Bodies, God's Image

*For it was you who created my being,
and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I thank you for the wonder of my being,
for the wonders of all your creation.*

Psalm 139:13-14

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Gerry Epp

Gathering Music and Processional

We carry in a flame, the Bible, and a prayer cloth. May we trust the Light to guide us, the Word to teach us, and prayer to knit our lives together with God as we begin our time of worship.

Call to Worship

Response: **We believe that we are created in God's image.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn HWB 46

I sing the mighty power of God

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

We confess, creating God, that we have not lived
as faithful bearers of your holy image.

We neglect our bodies, we abuse them,
we belittle them in our minds.

We divide our spirit from our body and call
one good and the other bad.

With such thoughts, we have separated what
you have joined together.

With such acts we miss your gospel message.

Forgive us for our foolish thoughts.

Heal us of our blindness to your glory that dwells in us.

Transform us, we pray,

that we may find wholeness in our bodies,
affirm our membership in the Body of Christ,
and work together for the healing of all creation,
which you have called good. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:26-31 and John 1:14

Quiet Reflection

The periods of silence in our worship will begin and end with the ringing of a chime.

Children's Time

Greg Nickel

Hymn HWB 482

Mothering God, you gave me birth

Meditation

“what the body knows”

Eric Massanari

Quiet Reflection

Hymn HWB 511

God, who touches earth

Responding to the Word

Offertory & Prayer

Sharing Time & Introductions

During this time in the service we welcome visitors, invite responses to the worship service, and share prayer concerns and joys. Please sign the Welcome Pages (black books) in the pews so we can learn each others' names.

Prayers of the People

Sending

Sending Hymn HWB 71

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Blessing

Hearing devices are available from an usher or the sound booth.

Some questions for your reflection on today's service:

- *Youth:* What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How does that compare with images of people in the media? Why do you imagine God created two sexes? Why not just one?
- *Parents of young children:* You might trace an outline of your child on a large piece of paper and color it in together. (There's a big roll of paper in the basement kitchen; help yourself!) Write around the edges, "God made me" and "God loves me." How do people in your family care for their bodies? How might you affirm God's image in your child?
- *Adults:* What different messages have you been given about your body as you have matured? Notice this week what messages you give through your body to friends, family, coworkers, strangers or your intimate partner. What messages is your body giving you at this moment in your life?
- *Older Adults:* When illness or circumstances that older adults are frequently faced with prevent or change/limit patterns of physical ability as well as sexual expression. How have physical changes impacted your daily life? Your sexuality? If you are in a couple relationship, how have these changes impacted your feelings of closeness and intimacy?

Bulletin Cover: Sketch by Rachel Bevan Baker

<http://rachelbevanbaker.wordpress.com>

Greeters: Melanie Zuercher & the Senior High Youth

Visual Arts: Yolanda Kauffman

Musicians: Rachel Epp Buller, Greg Nickel

Sound & Closing: Jeffrey Graber

Pastor: Eric Massanari

Associate Pastor: Sara Dick

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

Body & Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God

Part 1: Our Bodies, God's Image



Sunday, January 29, 2012

Our purpose is to worship and praise God together, to pray for and encourage each other to live our covenant with God and to share Christ's good news with others. As Anabaptist Christians we will reach out to others, welcome all people, be aware of our neighbors and respond to their needs, and give ourselves to service.

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:45 a.m.- Worship
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