

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 12, 2012

Our Bodies, God's Image

*Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.
1 Corinthians 13:4-6*

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Gerry Epp

Gathering Music and Processional

Call to Worship

The swell of prairie, the breath of wind, the dance of clouds;
God's passionate love surrounds us.
A couple caressing one another, a parent holding a newborn,
a teacher comforting a student, a nurse tending a wound;
God's passionate love flows through us.
We gather to celebrate the bonds of relationship, the beauty of
caring for one another, and the gift of our sexuality.
**We gather to praise the Source of all being, whose love is made
known to us in Jesus Christ, who offers us life abundant.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn HWB 12

Come, let us all unite to sing

Prayer of Lament and Hope (in unison)

**We celebrate our sexuality and the joys of sexual intimacy.
We give thanks for this good and precious gift.
We lament the many ways that our sexuality leads to pain.
Our hearts ache for couples who have struggled with infertility;
for people whose desire for sexual intimacy remains unfulfilled;
for those who have been victims of abuse, rape, or incest;
for those impacted by the distorting and destructive
effects of pornography.
We remember, O God, your invitation to healing.**

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**In you, our wounds are patiently tended.
In your care, we are gently led toward wholeness.
Visit us with your all-encompassing embrace.
Grant us fullness of life. Amen.**

Hymn HWB 61

Let all creation bless the Lord

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Yolanda Kauffman

Scripture Reading

selected verses from the Song of Songs

Quiet Reflection

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

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Meditation

“lovemaking”

Eric Massanari

Quiet Reflection

Hymn STJ 44

The love of God

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 STJ 74

Now go in peace

Blessing

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

Some questions for your reflection on today's service:

- *Youth:* How do we "glorify God in our bodies"? How do you manage your sexual energy? What are your hopes and expectations for sex?
- *Parents of young children:* You might use magnets to illustrate attraction. Ask your child, "How do we know attraction is real if we can't see it?" We all want to be hugged or kissed or touched sometimes, no matter what our age. You might offer to "play house" where you are the child, your child is the parent, and a doll is the baby. How do we care for each other in families?
- *Adults:* Take time this week, as you engage forms of popular media (television, print media, internet, movies, etc.), to notice messages regarding sexuality. What messages seem healthy? What messages seem unhealthy? How do you make your decisions around the expression of your own sexual energy? What are your hopes and expectations for sex?
- *Older Adults:* When and where is a safe place for older adults to talk together about the issues surrounding sexual expression as we age? (It seems to be a forgotten/forbidden topic in most conversations about aging).

Cover Image: *Song of Songs* by Marc Chagall

Greeters: Lola Schmidt, Stan & Marlene Smucker, John & Beth Piper

Visual Arts: Yolanda Kauffman, Hanna Easton

Musicians: Karen & Merle Schlabaugh

Sound & Closing: John Thiesen

Pastor: Eric Massanari

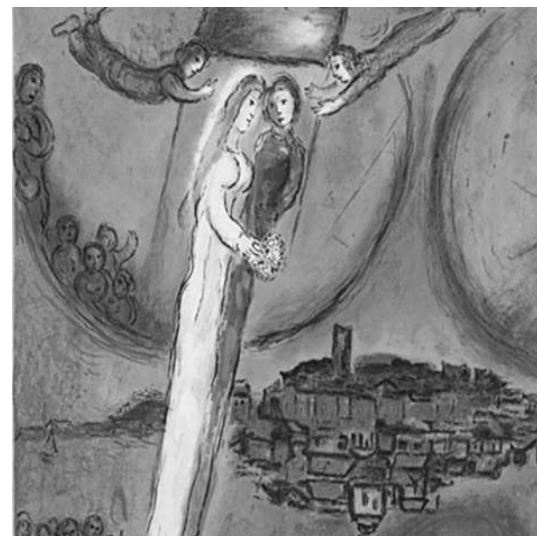
Associate Pastor: Sara Dick

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

Body & Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God

Part 3: Honoring the Gift of Sex



Sunday, February 12, 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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