

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 19, 2012

Part 4: Holy Desires

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- 1 John 4:7-8

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Florence Schloneger

Gathering Music and Processional

Call to Worship

As the deer longs for flowing streams

So our souls thirst for the living God

Our desires and longings well up within us

We pour out our souls to the One who knows us.

Deep calls to deep. We are calling, we are listening.

**Let our workshop, our work, our relationships, be holy expressions of
your energy within us.**

Thanks be to God, who fills us with life.

Opening Prayer

Hymn STJ 12

O sing to the Lord (Cantai ao Senhor)

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are your children,

made in your image,

forged into being with passion and desire,

filled with the breath of life.

We confess, O God, that we have lost our way:

The innocence of the garden

feels like a distant memory

The celebration of the new heaven and new earth

feels like a far off dream.

In the meantime, we struggle.

We strive to measure up to cultural expectations

of beauty and happiness.

We long for satisfying streams

but fill ourselves with polluted waters.

We hold others away from our pain

(cont'd on next page)

in order to protect the parts of ourselves that bring us shame.

Our focus is scattered. Our desires are misdirected.

We yearn for our deepest longings to find fulfillment

in intimate friendships;

in meaningful work;

in faithful partnerships.

Powerful Spirit, help us to know, to really know,

that you are the source and the destination

of all our longings;

that you abide with us even in our struggle;

that we are made whole by your grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn HWB 75

Holy holy holy

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Andrea Yoder Graber

Scripture Reading based on John 15:7-13; 17:20-23; 1 John 4:7-8, 18-21;
and Revelation 21:1-3; 22:1-2

Quiet Reflection

Meditation

"Belonging"

Sara Dick

Quiet Reflection

Responding to the Word

Hymn HWB 299

New earth, heavens new

Offertory and prayer

Sharing Time & Introductions

Prayers of the people

Sending

Hymn STJ 78

Sizohamba naye (We will walk with God)

Blessing

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

Questions for your reflection on today's service:

- *Youth*: How is one's desire for relationship with God the same as or different from desire for a sexual, human relationship? How might you bring your deepest desires to God in prayer?
- *Parents of young children*: Ask your child, "What do you wish for with all your heart?" Talk about how God wishes to be close to us (like magnets want to be close to each other). You might illustrate Psalm 42 together and pray for God's love to hold us close wherever we are and whatever we do.
- *Adults*: In what ways are you fulfilled and satisfied with your life? In what ways are you restless and unsatisfied? You might consider your work, relationships, church and spiritual life, physical health, and talents or passions. How are these longings like and unlike your sexual longings? How are they like and unlike your longings for God?
- *Older Adults*: We often hear about the "drama" of teen-age dating, but that drama is often still playing out in senior adult circles (check out any retirement community). If someone is worried about rumors or gossip, they might avoid "giving the wrong impression" at the expense of enjoying someone's company. How can we address the issues of privacy, community and sexuality in our older years?

Bulletin Cover: *Embrace of Peace*, George Tooker

Greeters: Lola Schmidt, Stan & Marlene Smucker, Jon & Beth Piper
Scripture Readers: Ardys Woodward, Weldon Schloneger, Florence Schloneger
Visual Arts: Yolanda Kauffman
Musicians: Shalom Band
Sound & Closing: Russ Neufeld

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 4: Holy Desires



Sunday, February 19, 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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