

# Shalom Mennonite Church

February 5, 2012

## *Body & Soul:*

### *Healthy Sexuality and the People of God*

#### **Part 2: Created for Intimacy**

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

-Romans 12:9-10, 15

#### Gathering in God's Presence

##### **Welcome and Special Announcements**

Debbie Schmidt

##### **Gathering Music and Processional**

##### **Call to Worship**

Come, worship the One who created us in our mothers' wombs—

##### **Who created us for one another.**

Who reached into our fleshy bodies, removed a hard bone covering our heart, and made it into a neighbor, a sibling, a life partner.

##### **Who exposed our hearts to longing, to needing, to desiring re-union.**

Come, worship the One who covenants to stay by our side, to go with us wherever we will go.

##### **Who will not forsake us, who is closer than a lover.**

Let us worship together as friends who need one another, as brothers and sisters of one family.

##### **Let us share in one another's joys and sorrows.**

*Let us give thanks for God's steadfast, abiding love.*

##### **Opening Prayer**

##### **Hymn HWB 350**

*Lord, teach us how to pray aright*

##### **Prayer of Lament (in unison)**

God, we are lonely.

We are surrounded by people, surrounded by activity, surrounded by noise—  
yet we are lonely.

We lament estranged relationships with family and friends.

We ache for the children we had hoped for but never bore.

We miss those dear to us who live far away.

We mourn loved ones who have passed on.

Our busyness does not fill the void.

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Our hyper-connectedness through technology does not complete the picture.

We long for intimacy in our lives.

We desire to know and be known.

Teach us, gracious God, the love that satisfies.

Open us to receive one another

and learn the way of intimate friendship,  
the way of love. Amen.

*Silence*

#### Proclaiming the Word

##### **Scripture Reading**

Genesis 2:15-23 and Ruth

##### **Quiet Reflection**

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

##### **Children's Time**

Sue Graber

##### **Hymn HWB 310**

*How good a thing it is*

##### **Meditation**

"Hooking Up"

Sara Dick

##### **Quiet Reflection**

#### Responding to the Word

##### **Hymn HWB 492**

*God of Eve and God of Mary*

##### **Offertory and 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

##### **Hymn HWB 118**

*Praise God from whom*

##### **Blessing**

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

## Questions for your reflection on today's service:

- *Youth*: What is your most intimate friendship right now? What do you like to do together? What would you name as key ingredients of intimacy?
- *Parents of young children*: Ask your child, "What do you like most about being part of our family? How is each member of our family like a special friend?" You might braid something (hair, string, etc.) and talk about what makes for a strong friendship.
- *Adults*: In your experience, how can—or do—hardship and transformation sometimes lead to closer relationships? What forms of hardship can get in the way of closeness? What role does God's presence play in your relationships?
- *Older Adults*: As a person ages, they might experience a truly debilitating disease process—Alzheimer's, serious stroke, advanced Parkinson's, and many others—that leaves them in a precarious situation. Companionship is difficult, whether or not one is partnered. How do adults who are ill find closeness with others? How do healthier spouses provide for their needs of companionship and human closeness while still being loving, faithful mates?

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Greeters: Chuck & Cindy Regier, Brad Guhr & Sarah Friesen Guhr

Visual Arts: Yolanda Kauffman

Musicians: Martha Unruh Szambecki, Sylvia Bartel

Sound & Closing: Andrew Thiesen

Bulletin cover art: "Ruth and Naomi" by He Qi

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Pastor: Eric Massanari

Associate Pastor: Sara Dick

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

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# *Body & Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God*

## Part 2: Created for Intimacy



*Sunday, February 5, 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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