

# Shalom Mennonite Church

March 18, 2012

## *Love's Covenant*

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

*For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Child, so that everyone who believes in that Child should not perish but may have eternal life. For God sent the Child into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through the Child the world might be saved.*

- John 3:16

### Gathering in God's Presence

#### Welcome and Special Announcements

Joe Smucker

#### Opening Psalm Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

#### Gathering Music

#### Call to Worship

At God's command,  
Moses lifted up a bronze serpent on a staff,  
so that people bitten by poisonous snakes  
could look at it and live.

**Blessed be the name of our God who works miracles.**

At God's command,  
Jesus allowed himself to be lifted up on a cross,  
so that people poisoned by Satan's ways  
could look to him for salvation and life.

**Blessed be our God whose miraculous name is love.**

#### Hymn HWB 102

*To God be the glory*

### Proclaiming the Word

#### Scripture Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

#### Children's Time

Sarah Kaufman

#### Hymn HWB 345

*God sent his Son*

#### Scripture Reading

John 3:14-21

#### Quiet Reflection

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

#### Meditation

Sara Dick

#### Quiet Reflection

#### Prayer of Confession and Hope

Faithful God,  
Lift our eyes from present distress to your promised presence.  
Lift our hearts from anxious thoughts to the quiet confidence of a child  
with its mother.  
Lift our hands from binding work into the freedom of praise.  
Lift our lives from our feverish pace into a gentler rhythm of service.  
Failing this, O God,  
we will not see the one they lifted up in scorn,  
the one you lift up in love for us. Amen.

#### Hymn HWB 151

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord*

### 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

#### Hymn HWB 107

*Blessed Savior, we adore thee*

#### Blessing

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

## *Love's Covenant*

God does not just deal with this world, but deals with it passionately, loving it and suffering for it. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only son to it" (John 3:16). But this is not logic. This is passion. How else would God be willing to part with God's own son for the sake of us? Nor is this a result of reasoning. It is a risk. And passion always involves risk, does it not? But only in risking will there be new discoveries and exciting experiences.

- Choan-Seng Song



## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Cover Image: **Altarpiece: The Life of Christ**, by Keith Haring (1958–1990) *This is the artist's last work completed two weeks before his death from AIDS in 1990*  
AIDS Interfaith Memorial Chapel - Grace Cathedral  
San Francisco, CA

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Greeters: Doris Weber, Anita & Stan Bohn, Brad Guhr & Sara Friesen Guhr  
Scripture Readers: Betti Führ, Andrew Thiesen  
Musicians: Karen Schlabaugh, Yvonne Bontrager  
Sound & Closing: David Kaufman

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Pastor: Eric Massanari  
Associate Pastor: Sara Dick  
Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger  
Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

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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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