

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 4, 2012

Living & Dying in the Covenant

*I will establish my covenant between me and you,
and your offspring after you throughout their generations,
for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you
and to your offspring after you.
Genesis 17:7*

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements Jennifer Szambecki Benninga

Opening Psalm Reading Psalm 22:22-31

Gathering Music "These are the Holy Ten Commands" - J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: "When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die."*
We are the people who have responded to this call.
Left Side: Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us
from loving.
Right Side: Through Christ, we want to die to the
stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.
Left Side: Through Christ, we want to die to seeking our own success
and salvation in disregard for the good of all God's children.
Right Side: God promises us: if we die with Christ, we will also rise
with Christ.
All: *God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in
Christ. Alleluia! Amen.*

*the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Hymn STJ 1 *We sing to you, O God*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Children's Time Lisa Bartel

Hymn HWB 170 *The King of love my shepherd is*

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Quiet Reflection

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

Meditation "living to die, and dying to live" Eric Massanari

Quiet Reflection

Prayer of Confession and Hope

There are times when we've felt scattered, disjointed and dried up. There have been times when we have neglected the promptings of your Spirit and have not trusted in your mercy and your forgiveness. Sometimes our fear of dying leads us to seek life in lifeless places.

(Silent reflection)

Fill us with your Spirit, O God, that we may be transformed by your love. May we become alive in Christ, and equipped to be your people in this world. Amen.

Hymn HWB 167 *For God so loved us*

Responding to the Word

Offertory & Prayer "O God, Our Faithful God" - J. Brahms

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 76 *Praise, I will praise you, Lord*

Blessing

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

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession this morning have been adapted from Ruth C. Duck's *Words for Worship*, United Church Press, 1981.

Living and Dying in the Covenant



Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Each life has its serious struggles and burdens, and we somehow expect that a growing relationship of love with the all-powerful God will make a difference in areas of our pain and grief and restlessness. We want real transformation in the midst of life, not pie-in-the-sky-when-we-die. And such hope is congruent with the promise of the gospel, for this is the promise: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). . . We pray for the coming of God's kingdom, knowing that it is already here waiting to fill both our inner and outer realities with justice and peace. . . Can we trust the promise of God in Christ? Does transformation really happen in ordinary people's lives?

- Norvene Vest, from *No Moment Too Small*

Greeters: Chuck & Cindy Regier, Mary & David Duerksen
Scripture Readers: John McCabe Juhnke, Jacob Penner
Musicians: Greta Hiebert, Anita Bohn
Sound & Closing: Phil Graber

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

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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