

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 25, 2012

“The Cosmic Christ”

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible...

Colossians 1:15

Gathering in God’s Presence

Welcome and Special Announcements

Gathering Music & Processional

We carry in a flame, the Bible, and a prayer cloth. May we trust the Light to guide us, the Word to teach us, and prayer to knit our lives together with God as we begin our time of worship.

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 146)

We praise the Lord with the whole heart;
with each breath we sing to the God of Life.

**Happy are those who trust in God
and surrender their lives to God's care.**

We are created in God's own image;
we are filled with God's own compassion.

**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts us up when we have fallen.**

God's justice shines from the depths,
hidden but always present.

**We praise the Lord for all we can fathom;
for what we cannot fathom, we praise the Lord!**

Prayer

Gathering Hymn HWB 648

Morning has broken

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Barb Goering

First Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

Quiet Reflection

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

Second Reading

John 18:33-37

Quiet Reflection

Hymn HWB 170

The King of love my shepherd is

Meditation

“the general dance”

Eric Massanari

Hymn HWB 103

Jubilate Deo omnis terra

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 STJ 77

The peace of the earth be with you

Benediction

* Special thanks to Stephen Mitchell, author of *A Book of Psalms*, for his own adaptation of Psalm 146 that inspired this morning's Call to Worship.

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

And we, with our unveiled faces reflecting like mirrors the glory of the Lord, all grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image that we reflect.

- 2 Corinthians 3:18

“The Cosmic Christ”

If we could let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear the call to follow God in the mysterious, cosmic dance. We do not have to go very far to catch echoes of that game, and of that dancing. When we are alone on a starlit night; when by chance we see the migrating birds in autumn descending on a grove of junipers to rest and eat; when we see children in a moment when they are really children; when we know the love in our own hearts—at such times the awakening, the turning inside out of all values, the “newness,” the emptiness and the purity of vision that make themselves evident, provide a glimpse of the cosmic dance.

No despair of ours can alter the reality of things, or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there. Indeed, we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not.

Yet, the fact remains that we are invited to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join the general dance.

- Thomas Merton, from *New Seeds of Contemplation*



Sunday, November 25, 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.

Greeters: Kelvin & Lisa Bartel, Kristen Mayhue, Brett & Marathana Prothro
Musicians: The Shalom Band, Anita Bohn
Visual Arts: Joanna Fenton Friesen
Sound System Operator/Closing: John Thiesen

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

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:45 a.m.- Worship
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