

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 10, 2013

Ashamed No More

Lent 4: God Will Remove Our Disgrace

*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

Psalm 32:1

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome & Special Announcements

John McCabe-Juhnke

Gathering Music & Procession

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

Lord, we come to offer up our praise.

You have wiped our slate clean.

We come to express our joy and thanksgiving.

You have rolled away our disgrace.

We come to celebrate a God whose steadfast love surrounds us.

Sing together everyone, shout for joy.

Gathering Song HWB 48

All creatures of our God and King

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Time

Becky Kindy

First Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Hymn HWB 491

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Quiet Reflection

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

Meditation

Sara Dick

Quiet Reflection

Prayer of Confession

Parenting God, we have wandered so far from your loving embrace.
We have taken what you have given us—
our lives, our world, our inheritance—
and squandered it on selfish pursuits.

We confess that we consume extravagantly what is not ours to consume.

We spend the moments of our lives as if they were ours to spend.

We have sinned against heaven and before you.

We yearn to return to the shelter of your presence.

Assurance

Come, sit again at my table.

I will restore you as my children once more.

Hymn HWB 143

Amazing grace!

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 Song HWB 533

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all

Benediction

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

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More than any other story in the Gospel, the parable of the prodigal son expresses the boundlessness of God's compassionate love. And when I place myself in that story under the light of that divine love, it becomes painfully clear that leaving home is much closer to my spiritual experience than I might have thought . . .

Leaving home is . . . much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carved in the palms of God's hands and hidden in their shadows. Leaving home means ignoring the truth that God has "fashioned me in secret, molded me in the depths of the earth and knitted me together in my mother's womb." Leaving home is living as though I do not yet have a home and must look far and wide to find one.

Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*



Sunday, March 10, 2013

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
800 E. First St., Newton, KS
Phone: (316) 283-7395 office@shalomnewton.org
Web site: shalomnewton.org

Greeters: Erna & Richard Rempel, Lola Schmidt, Marlene & Stan Smucker
Musicians: Karen & Merle Schlabaugh
Visual Arts: Hanna Eastin
Sound System Operator/Closing: Tim Buller
Cover Image: Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

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