

# Shalom Mennonite Church

May 25, 2014

## *Easter 6*

*... so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for God  
and find God—though indeed God is not far  
from each one of us. Acts 17:27*

### Gathering in God's Presence

#### Welcome & Special Announcements

Ron Flaming

#### 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 based on Psalm 66

Transforming God, you have taken the world's darkness  
and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope.

**Come and hear the good news of God's love for all creation.**

Restoring God, you have turned defeat into sudden victory,  
and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.

**Come and hear the good news of God's awesome powers.**

Renewing God, we respond to your mighty deeds with songs  
of praise, worship and thankful prayers. You alone are God!

**Come and hear the good news of God's blessings on us all.**

**Glory and honour, power and dominion belong to God alone.**

**Amen.**

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#### Invocation

#### Opening Hymn HWB 26

*Holy Spirit, come with power*

### Proclaiming the Word

#### Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

#### Hymn HWB 537

*You are the God within life*

#### Children's Time

Euny Kerbs

#### New Testament Scripture

Acts 17:22-31

#### Quiet Reflection

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

#### Message

"We too are God's offspring"

Rob Burdette

#### Quiet Reflection

### Responding to the Word

#### Hymn of Response HWB 292

*Away with our fears*

#### Communion

#### Offertory and Prayer

#### Sharing Time and 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 STJ 73

*The Lord lift you up*

#### Benediction

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

On the Sundays when I give a sermon at our church, I usually sit on the edge of the stage and talk to people after the service. And every week the same woman walks up to me and hands me a piece of paper. We've been going through this ritual for several years now. She smiles, and we chat for a moment or two, and then she walks away. The piece of paper she hands me is always the same size, about four by five inches, folded, with writing inside in the upper left corner. I unfold it each week while she watches, and then I read what she's written on it. A number, with a few comments next to the number. Sometimes the number is big, like 174. Sometimes it's smaller. I remember once when it was 2. The number is how many days it's been since she last cut herself. She's struggled with a self-injury addiction for years, but lately a group of people have been helping her find peace and healing. But she still struggles, some weeks more than others. She recently told me that every man she's ever been with hit her. So when she hears about love, it's not a concept she's familiar with. Which makes sense. Beaten, hit, abused, neglected—and then she's told that God loves her unconditionally without reservation without her having to do anything to earn it? That's a stretch. Hard to believe, given what she's seen of the world.

Bell, Rob (2011-03-15). *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* (p. 164). Harper Collins, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

Robert Holmes "Rob" Bell Jr. is an American author and pastor. Bell was the founder of Mars Hill Bible Church located in Grandville, Michigan, which he pastored until 2012. Wikipedia

## Easter 6



The Areopagus (Mars' Hill) is a little hill near the Acropolis in Athens where Paul may have been brought before the philosophers of this city (Acts 17: 16-34).

May 25, 2014

Greeters: Kristen Mayhue, Brett & Marathana Prothro,  
Dick & Mary Rempel

Musicians: Yvonne Bontrager, Chris Dick

Visual Arts: Becky Kindy

Sound & Closing: David Kaufman

Bulletin Cover: Photo by Gustav Jennings

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Pastor: Sara Dick

Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Barth Hague

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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 am - Sunday School    10:45 am - Worship  
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