

# Shalom Mennonite Church

March 15, 2015

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9 NRSV

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

**Prelude and Contemplation** "Adagio" -- J.S. Bach

## FIRST LOOK

**Welcome and Opening Prayer** Patty Burdette

**Opening Hymn STJ 104** *God moves in a mysterious way, v. 4*  
(sing twice)

**Children's Time** Melodie Hatch

**Scripture** (see insert) John 3:14-21  
*Scripture passages are read in English or Spanish to reflect the community in and around Shalom.*

## Call to Authenticity

Leader: Where are you, Lord? We feel abandoned.  
You don't seem to be listening to our cries for help.

**Congregation: When life is hard,  
we want you to make it better.**

Leader: Like the people of Israel,  
we're tired of our burdens, our distress,  
and our difficulty.

**Congregation: Do something, and quickly!**  
*Silence*

Leader: Shine your light on us.

**Congregation: Help us trust that you are present,  
even in hardship.**

**Hymn HWB 595** *Jesus, priceless treasure*  
*Nursery care for young children is available at this time till  
the end of the service.*

## UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT

**Call to Grace** (from Psalm 107)  
Though even the redeemed are fools because of their sinful ways,  
God saves them from their desperate circumstances,  
giving orders for their healing and rescuing them from the pit.

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

**Sermon** "It's a gift. Period" Rob Burdette

**Quiet Reflection**

**Hymn of Response STJ 54** *Longing for light*

## SECOND LOOK

**Scripture** (see insert) John 3:14-21

**Offering** "Jesus, priceless treasure" -- J.S. Bach

**Reflection/Sharing/Announcements**  
*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 530** *What wondrous love is this*

**Call to Commitment**  
Leader: God turns things upside down and inside out  
by being present whether we know it or not.  
**Congregation: God, we will walk in your light  
whether we see it or not.**

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

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Shalom Mennonite Church

9:30 am - Sunday School    10:45 am – Worship

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Web site: www.shalomnewton.org

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Greeters: Anita & Stan Bohn, Connie & Kevin Regier

Lent Worship Team: Patty Burdette, Rob Burdette, Sara Dick,

Melodie Hatch, Jeremy Kindy, Marlene Smucker

Musicians: Anita Bohn, Greta Hiebert

Spanish Scripture Reader: Daagya Dick

Visual Arts: Becky Kindy, Marlene Smucker

Sound & Closing: David Kaufman

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Pastor: Sara Dick

Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Congregational Board Chair: Barth Hague

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## Shalom Mennonite Church

*Following Jesus, we risk love.*



***Upside Down & Inside Out***  
*Lent 4: God Amidst the Shadows*

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