### 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 Spe	ecial Announcements	Jennifer Szambecki Benninga
Opening Psalm Reading		Psalm 22:22-31
Gathering Music	"These are the Holy Ter	Commands" - J.S. Bach
Call to Worship		
Leader:	"When Jesus Christ calls we are the people who ha	us, he bids us come and die."* ave 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
	<b>Proclaiming th</b>	e Word
Scripture Reading		Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Children's Time		Lisa Bartel
Hymn HWB 170		The King of love my shepherd is

Eric Massanari

#### **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"

**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

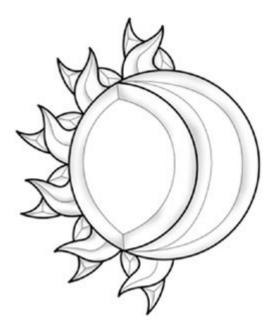
Hearing devices are available from an usher or the sound booth.

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.

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 piein-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

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## Second Sunday of Lent

## Sunday, March 4, 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.

> 9:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:45 a.m.- Worship 800 E. First St., Newton, KS Phone: (316) 283-7395 office@shalomnewton.org

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