

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 16, 2014

Encountering God: What have we witnessed . . . in our blessings?

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

- John 3:5

Gathering in God's Presence

Welcome & Special Announcements

Rachel Eash-Scott

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

We look to the hills and to the mountain tops;

where does our help come from?

We look to sun, the moon, and the stars above;

where does our help come from?

We look to the God of Abraham,

maker of heaven and earth;

our help comes from the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Opening song HWB 299

New earth, heavens new

Proclaiming the Word

Confessing our Sin and Claiming our Assurance (see bulletin insert)

Drama

Children's Time

Kendra Neufeld

Hymn STJ 34

Loving Spirit

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

Testimony

Quiet Reflection

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

Sermon

Sara Dick

Quiet Reflection

Responding to the Word

Hymn of Response HWB 511

God, who touches earth

Offertory and Prayers of the People

Sending Song HWB 169

I to the hills lift my eyes

Benediction

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

Greeters: Anita & Stan Bohn, Connie & Kevin Regier

Musicians: Mark Schmidt Andres, Martha Unruh Szambecki

Drama: Barb Goering, Jeffrey Graber, Mark Schmidt, Joe Smucker

Visual Arts: Marla Sawatzky Rowe

Sound & Closing: Phil Graber

Bulletin Cover: "God the Mother" by Meinrad Craighead

Pastor: Sara Dick

Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Barth Hague

Now That I Am Forever With Child

Audre Lorde

How the days went
while you were blooming within me
I remember each upon each—
the swelling changed planes of my body
and how you first fluttered, then jumped
and I thought it was my heart.

How the days wound down
and the turning of winter
I recall, with you growing heavy
against the wind. I thought
now her hands
are formed, and her hair
has started to curl
now her teeth are done
now she sneezes.
Then the seed opened
I bore you one morning just before spring
My head rang like a fiery piston
my legs were towers between which
A new world was passing

Since then
I can only distinguish
one thread within running hours
You, flowing through selves
toward You.

Lent “Banner”: The blue line represents the skyline. The green line is a swath of land available to be filled with God's swirling promise (yellow) of a nation of blessing and the rebirth that happens when we encounter God's grace.

- Marla Sawatzky Rowe

*Encountering God:
What have we witnessed . . .
in our blessings?*



Sunday, March 16, 2014

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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