

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 23, 2014

Third Sunday of Lent

*Encountering God: What have we witnessed . . .
through nourishment that meets our needs?*

“How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?”
John 4:9b

Gathering in God’s Presence

Welcome & Special Announcements

Rob Burdette

We are pleased to have Stanley Green, the executive director of Mennonite Mission Network, here with us. Stanley will bring the message to us today.

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

Dry and thirsty, we look for a drink that will satisfy.

God provides us with water from the spring of life.

Lost and confused, we strive for direction and purpose.

God leads us through the wilderness into a land of promise.

Wearied from the journey, we plead for restoration.

God renews us and grants us new life;

we make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Hymn HWB 36

God of our strength

Proclaiming the Word

Lenten Scripture

John 4:7-15

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

Drama

Children's Story

Kathy Snyder

Hymn HWB 47

Earth and all stars

Sermon Scripture

Luke 19:1-10

Testimony

Fabiola Flores

Quiet Reflection

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

Sermon “Walls or Bridges: What are you building?” Stanley Green

Quiet reflection

Responding to the Word

Hymn of response HWB 493

I heard the voice of Jesus say

Offertory and Prayer

Prayers of the People

Sending Song HWB 430

God be with you

Benediction

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

Reflection by Kate Huey

Last week, we met Nicodemus in the cool dark of night, full of shadows and questions, resistance and doubt. This week, with the Samaritan woman at the well, the bright noonday sun tells the truth about who we are and where we've been in our lives, not just the beautiful, shining moments (remember that mountaintop Transfiguration three weeks ago?), but each little wrinkle and every large failure, our regrets, our wanderings, the losses we've known--the broken places in our hearts and lives. Sitting with Jesus in the heat of the noonday sun beating on our heads, we get thirsty. It's ironic, and fitting, that this scene unfolds by a deep well that provides the thing most necessary for our physical survival--water. The conversation between Jesus and this "outsider" woman, alone at the well, not only breaks rules and conventions but also exposes the humanity of Jesus in his thirst for water. And it also tells us that this woman, this solitary outsider, could see, much better than Nicodemus could, the heart of the matter.

Lent Banner in the sanctuary: The green line represents the rock from which the life giving water (blue) bursts forth and the Spirit (yellow) swirls within the living water available to us when we thirst for and open ourselves to encounter with God.

Greeters: Kristen Mayhue, Brett & Marathana Prothro, Dick & Mary Rempel
Musicians: Chris Dick, Greg Nickel
Drama: Barb Goering, Tim Huber, Joe Smucker
Visual Arts: Marla Sawatzky Rowe
Sound & Closing: Brett Prothro
Bulletin Cover: *Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*, Catacomb of Via Latina

Pastor: Sara Dick
Transitional Pastor: Rob Burdette
Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger
Church Moderator: Barth Hague

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Jesus and the Samaritan Woman, Catacomb of Via Latina

Sunday, March 23, 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
800 E. First St., Newton, KS
Phone: (316) 283-7395 office@shalomnewton.org
Web site: www.shalomnewton.org