

CINCINNATI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 02/21/2021

Time: 10:15 AM (Worship starts at 10:30)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/371911727?pwd=bEdOMTg0R1NQK2NRMXdBNklpVG1Sdz09>

Meeting ID: 371 911 727

Password: 180430

WORSHIP LEADER: LISA MARTIN

SPEAKER: GRETA HOLT

MUSIC COORDINATORS: CHRISTINE SCHUMACHER & HAL HESS

Focus: *The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE Christine S. & Hal H. *Come on, children, to the gospel feast* (*VT #511)
& *Heleluyan* (Muscogee {Creek}, associated with the Trail of Tears) (VT #85)

INDIGENOUS LANDS ACKNOWLEDGMENT Greta H.

WELCOME Lisa M.

CALL TO WORSHIP / PRAYER

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

Many: into unknown waters.

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the water,
the waters of baptism,

Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.

CELEBRATING

MUSIC *Pilgrim's Hymn* (Steven Paulus; University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire Choir)

Even before we call on Your name / To ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You, / You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, / Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the father, / and to the Son, / And to the Holy Spirit.
Even with darkness sealing us in, / We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast, / We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, / Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever, / And unto ages and ages, / Amen.

* VT = *Voices Together* Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Lisa M.

**Many: Deep calls to deep.
We call to you from the depths of our hearts.**

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,
avoiding you,
avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads. Needing you,
needing our neighbors.

(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep relationship.)

**Many:
Deep calls to deep.
You call to us from the depth of your love.
Calling us to deep relationship.
We come to you, God.**

HEARING

SCRIPTURE Neil W. Psalm 25: 1, 4-12

MEDITATION Greta H. "Called to Deep Relationship"

RESPONDING

SLIDES IN SILENCE

REFLECTION How is God calling you to deep relationship?

SONG OF RESPONSE *Tis a gift to be simple* (Tenebrae; Arr. Bob Chilcott)

SHARING JOYS & SORROWS Lisa M.

PRAYER

SENDING

MUSIC *Down to the River and Pray* (King's Singers, The Temple Church, London)

BENEDICTION Greta H.

OFFERINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH Lisa M.

Following the service, there will be an invitation to join breakout rooms for smaller groups to check in with each other. You may click YES to the invitation or remain in the larger meeting room.

FOCUS Scripture passages:

Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15

Genesis 9:8-17 (*The Voice* translation)

⁸ But God *was not finished*. He had more to say both to Noah and his sons. ⁹ Look, for I am now going to make *a pact*, a special covenant, with you and all your descendants.¹⁰ *This covenant* also extends to every living creature *in the world*—the birds, the domesticated animals, and every wild animal on the earth—as many as emerged with you from the ark.¹¹ As part of this covenant, I promise you I will never again wipe out all *living* flesh by means of flooding waters. Never again will a flood destroy the earth.¹² It is a sign of this *perpetual* covenant I now make between Me and you and all living creatures along with you, as well as all future generations,¹³ I will hang a rainbow among the clouds. It will serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.¹⁴ *And from now on*, whenever a cloud rises over the earth and a rainbow appears in the sky,¹⁵ I will remember My covenant—*My promise* I have made between Me and you and all living creatures. No waters will ever again turn into a flood *powerful enough* to destroy all living creatures.¹⁶ When that rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember this eternal covenant I have made with all living creatures.¹⁷ *Look for the rainbow, and remember My promise*. With it I sign the covenant I have made between Me and all the living creatures residing on the earth.

Mark 1:9-15 (*The Voice* translation)

⁹ It was in those days that Jesus left Nazareth (a village in the region of Galilee) and came down to the Jordan, and John cleansed Him through baptism there in the same way all the others were ritually cleansed.¹⁰ But as Jesus was coming out of the waters, He looked up and saw the sky split open. The Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove,¹¹ and a voice echoed in the heavens.

Voice: You are My Son, My beloved One, and I am very pleased with You.

¹² After that the Spirit compelled Him to go into the wilderness,¹³ and there in the desert He stayed for 40 days. He was tested by Satan himself and surrounded by wild animals; but through these trials, heavenly messengers cared for Him and ministered to Him.

¹⁴ After John was arrested by Herod, who ruled the Jewish lands on behalf of Roman interests, Jesus went back into the region of Galilee and began to proclaim the good news of God.

Jesus:¹⁵ It's time! The kingdom of God is near! Seek forgiveness, change your actions!

FOCUS SCRIPTURES

Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Psalm 25 ~ (*The Voice* translation)

A song of David.

¹ALWAYS I will lift up my soul to You, Eternal One,
²BECAUSE You are my God and I put my trust in You.

Do not let me be humiliated.

Do not let my enemies celebrate at my expense.

³CERTAINLY none of the people who rely on You will be shamed,

but those who are unfaithful, who intentionally deceive,

they are the ones who will be disgraced.

⁴DEMONSTRATE Your ways, O Eternal One.

Teach me *to understand* so I can follow.

⁵EASE me down *the path of* Your truth.

FEED me Your word

because You are the True God who has saved me.

I wait all day long, *hoping, trusting* in You.

⁶GRACIOUS Eternal One, remember Your compassion; *rekindle* Your concern and love,

which have always been *part of Your actions toward those who are Yours.*

⁷Do not HOLD against me the sins I committed when I was young;

instead, deal with me according to Your mercy and love.

Then Your goodness may be *demonstrated in all the world*, Eternal One.

⁸IMMENSELY good and honorable is the Eternal; that's why He teaches sinners the way.

⁹With JUSTICE, He directs the humble *in all that is right*,

and He shows them His way.

¹⁰KIND and true are all the ways of the Eternal to the people who keep His covenant and His words.

1 Peter 3:18-22 (*The Voice* translation)

¹⁸The Anointed One suffered for sins once for all time—the righteous suffering for the unrighteous—so that He might bring us to God. Though He died in the flesh, He was made alive again through the Spirit.

¹⁹And in the Spirit, He went and preached to those spirits held captive. ²⁰It was these who long ago lived in disobedience while God waited patiently as Noah was building the ark. At that time, only a tiny band—eight people—was spared from the flood.

²¹The water through which the ark safely passed symbolizes now the ceremonial washing through baptism that initiates you into salvation. You are saved not because it cleanses your body of filth but because of your appeal to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus the Anointed, our Liberating King. ²²Now He has entered heaven and sits at the right hand of God as heavenly messengers and authorities and powers submit to His supremacy.

Please plan to join CMF worship on Sunday mornings at 10:15 via Zoom through **March** and possibly longer. Thank you and be safe.

CMF WORSHIP ~ SERVING FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Coordinator: Diane M.
Worship Leader: Lisa M.
Speaker: Greta H.
Music Coordinators: Christine S. & Hal H.
Children's Time: Jane P. (Pre-Church)
Scripture Reader: Neil W.
Attendance: Jim M.
PowerPoint: Maggie S.
Zoom Host: Rebecca B.

CMF ONGOING ZOOM GROUPS & LINKS

CMF SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ Sunday mornings at 10:15; Worship starts at 10:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/371911727?pwd=bEdOMTg0R1N0K2NRMXdBNklpVG1Sdz09>
Meeting ID: 371 911 727
Password: 180430

CMF SOCIAL HOUR GROUP ~ Thursday evenings at 7:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/308580590?pwd=Sk9heDZSUm1NamIsWEEd1VE5tbThpQT09>
Meeting ID: 308 580 590
Passcode: 752912

ADULT FORUM ~ Monday mornings at 10:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83996398199?pwd=UjFVdINFc0lXek1rNmJxeU1zTUJ1QT09>
Meeting ID: 839 9639 8199
Password: 921626

CMF SINGLES GROUP ~ Wednesdays at 12 noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174011887?pwd=bmJzVjgyL09iSkFvVWQzZ3FBdHhCZz09>
Meeting ID: 891 7401 1887
Password: 655449
Phone: 1 301 715 8592

CMF Men's Group ~ Third Saturday morning at 8:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86871094702?pwd=M3VUTU5mdWRCRXJwNFRKaHN0eGIBQT09>
Meeting ID: 868 7109 4702
Passcode: 311459

A Prayer from Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. *(Pastor Emeritus, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA)*

Older than the morning stars that twinkled in the blackness of night's first birth, the rotation of the axis of time, bring us into the freshness of your mercy and the newness of your presence.

We come to you today with heartfelt gratitude, not with mixing Judas paint with Judas praise in order to cover our hypocrisy. Some of us come to you with triumph over tragedy. Others of us come with enduring pain suffered from shameful defeat in an inescapable battle of life. Some of us feel like going on and others of us feel like giving up. But to you we come just as we are. Whether we are winners or losers, we know that you love us one and all. Greatest of the Greatest, you know just how much we can bear.

We all come to commune with you:

The tireless champion;
The tired loser;
The retired forgotten ones;
We all come to be consistently corrected and comforted by you.
We come counting our lost.
We come confronting our crises.
We come as citizens of cities controlled by crime.
We come chilled by the cold of cowardice.
Great God Almighty:
Commune with us conscience clean.
Caress us with the cradle of compassion.
Consecrate us with outrageous convictions.
Control us with Christlike concerns.
Great Physician Powerful:
Pardon us with the conscience of peace.
Place us in paths of productivity.

Practice the perfection of healing upon those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually sick.

This is our humble plea, we present in the precious Name of the prince of peace, Jesus Christ, our priceless priest.

Amen.