

CINCINNATI MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ 03/21/2021

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: MICHAEL GEHMAN

MUSIC COORDINATORS: MARY & ROD STUCKY WITH SUZANNE STAUFFER

Today's Scripture Texts: Jeremiah 31: 31-34, John 12: 20-33, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10

Focus: Like a seed that falls deep into the dark, rich earth, we are called to deep growth, releasing our attachments that prevent us from bearing and offering fruit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Suzanne S. *Speak, O Lord*

WELCOME Lisa M.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Many: God, teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.

Put a new and right spirit in each of us.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

One: We trust you, God, to forgive us our iniquities and remember our sin no more.

Many: There is a time for everything, and sometimes, the hour is upon us.

One: Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, knowing that those who love their life will lose it.

Many: "The hour has come. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper growth.

PRAYER

CELEBRATING

MUSIC Suzanne S. *In the Bulb There is a Flower* (HWB #614, VT#670)
(for lyrics, see Insert)

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 our resistance to being planted,
Into our aching earth,
Into the way of your covenant.
We confess our need for you to plant within us
The joy of salvation,
A willing spirit.

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

Deep calls to deep.

You call us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep growth.

We come to you, God.

HEARING

SCRIPTURE

Jean F.

John 12:20-33

MEDITATION

Michael Gehman, Guest Minister

"No Cross, No Fruit"

RESPONDING

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How is God calling you to deep growth? What do you need to let go of so you can grow?

SLIDES IN SILENCE

Greta H.

SONG OF RESPONSE

I Saw a Tree by the Riverside

(VT # 514) (See insert)

SHARING JOYS & SORROWS / PRAYER

Lisa M.

SENDING

MUSIC

Listen, God is Calling (VT # 765) (See insert)

BENEDICTION

Michael Gehman

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.

In the Bulb There is a Flower
(VT #670 & HWB #614)

Verse 1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Verse 2 There's a song in ev'ry silence,
seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Verse 3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Listen, God is Calling (VT #765)

Refrain

*Listen: listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.*

Verse 1

Jesus tells his people: share the good news
That he came to save us, and sets us free. / **Refrain**

Verse 2

Let none be forgotten throughout the world.
In the triune name of God, go and baptize. / **Refrain**

Verse 3

Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,
Walking in your precepts, led by your Word.
/ **Refrain**

I Saw a Tree by the Riverside (VT #514)

Verse 1

I saw a tree by the riverside
one day as I walked along,
Straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky,
growing tall and strong.
"How do you grow so tall and strong?"
I said to the riverside tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:

Refrain

*"I've got roots growing down to the water,
I've got leaves flowing up to the sunshine,
And the fruit that I bear is a sign of the life in me.
I am shade from the hot summer sundown,
I am nest for the birds of the heaven.
I'm becoming what the Lord of trees
has meant me to be - a strong young tree."*

Verse 2

I saw a tree in the wintertime
when snow lay on the ground,
Straight as an arrow and painting to the sky;
and winter winds blew all around.
"How do you stay so tall and strong?"
I said to the wintertime tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:

Refrain

Verse 3

I saw a tree in the city streets
where buildings blocked the sun;
Green and lovely, I could see
it gave joy to ev'ry-one.
"How do you grow in the city streets?"
I said to the downtown tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me:

Refrain

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

CMF WORSHIP ~ SERVING MARCH 21, 2021

Coordinator: Connie B.
Worship Leader: Lisa M.
Speaker: Michael Gehman
Music Coordinators / Song Leaders:
Rod & Mary Stucky and
Suzanne Stauffer
Children's Time: (Pre-Church)
Tally Maust & Jane P.
Scripture Reader: Jean Flinner
Attendance: Connie B.
PowerPoint: Maggie S.
Zoom Host: Randy M.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/371911727?pwd=bEdOMTg0R1NQK2NRMXdBNklpVG1Sdz09)

[pwd=bEdOMTg0R1NQK2NRMXdBNklpVG1Sdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/371911727?pwd=bEdOMTg0R1NQK2NRMXdBNklpVG1Sdz09)

Meeting ID: 371 911 727

Password: 180430

CMF SOCIAL HOUR GROUP ~ Thursday evenings at 7:00

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/308580590?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/308580590?pwd=Sk9heDZSUm1NamIsWEEd1VE5tbThpQT09)

[pwd=Sk9heDZSUm1NamIsWEEd1VE5tbThpQT09](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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83996398199?pwd=UjFVdINFc0lXek1rNmJxeU1zTUJ1QT09)

[pwd=UjFVdINFc0lXek1rNmJxeU1zTUJ1QT09](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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174011887?pwd=bmJzVjgyL09iSkFvVVQzZ3FBdHhCZz09)

[pwd=bmJzVjgyL09iSkFvVVQzZ3FBdHhCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89174011887?pwd=bmJzVjgyL09iSkFvVVQzZ3FBdHhCZz09)

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86871094702?pwd=M3VUTU5mdWRCRXJwNFRKaHN0eGIBQT09)

[pwd=M3VUTU5mdWRCRXJwNFRKaHN0eGIBQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86871094702?pwd=M3VUTU5mdWRCRXJwNFRKaHN0eGIBQT09)

Meeting ID: 868 7109 4702

The culmination of one love, one dream, one self, is the anonymous seed of the next.

There is very little difference between burying and planting. For often, we need to put dead things to rest so that new life can grow. And further, the thing put to rest—whether it be a loved one, a dream, or a false way of seeing—becomes the fertilizer for the life about to form. As the well-used thing joins with the earth, the old love fertilizes the new; the broken dream fertilizes the dream yet conceived; the painful way of being that strapped us to the world fertilizes the freer inner stance about to unfold.

This is very helpful when considering the many forms of self we inhabit over a lifetime. One self carries us to the extent of its usefulness and dies. We are then forced to put that once beloved skin to rest, to join it with the ground of spirit from which it came, so it may fertilize the next skin of self that will carry us into tomorrow.

There is always grief for what is lost and always surprise at what is to be born. But much of our pain in living comes from wearing a dead and useless skin, refusing to put it to rest, or from burying such things with the intent of hiding them rather than relinquishing them.

For every new way of being, there is a failed attempt mulching beneath the tongue. For every sprig that breaks surface, there is an old stick stirring underground. For every moment of joy sprouting, there is a new moment of struggle taking root.

We live, embrace, and put to rest our dearest things, including how we see ourselves, so we can resurrect our lives anew.

- ◇ *Try to identify one aspect of your way in the world that has outlived its usefulness—a way of thinking of feeling, of speaking or relating.*
- ◇ *Try to understand why you are still wearing it.*
- ◇ *On loose paper, journal what this outlived aspect is and why you are still wearing it.*
- ◇ *Take the paper and symbolically bury it somewhere special, giving thanks for how this outlived way has helped you to this point in your path.*
- ◇ *Be kind to the new space that burying this has opened in you.*
- ◇ *Water it and keep it in the light.*

~ Mark Nepo, *The Book of Awakening*