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Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ-centered - Living, Relating, Serving

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EASTER SUNDAY: BEARING WITNESS TO CHRIST'S RISING April 5, 2015

Prelude

Fairest Lord Jesus ~ Silesian Melody

Gathering Song: HWB no. 268,

See the Splendor of the Morning

Lighting of the Peace Lamp

**Welcome
Passing the Peace**

Sharing Time

Congregational Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sins/sinned against us)

Call to Authenticity

L: Christ is risen! Today is the day of salvation!

P: The tomb is empty, but the love of God is full. From a place of death, life springs!

L: In the full light of resurrection, how shall we not walk in newness of life? How could we fail to proclaim that Christ is alive in us?

P: Jesus, we cling to the promise of life. Strengthen us now to *live* into the reality of Your resurrection.

Silence

L: Jesus, strengthen us that all we are might bear witness to Your Grace — to shalom; to wholeness.

P: Even as You have done — overcoming evil with good; setting no bounds on love —so let us do, proclaiming with joy Your Kingdom come.

L: Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed!

Hymn: STJ no. 16,

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Children's Time:

The Misplaced Jesus

Worship Music:

Arr.by Sue Furlong *Lord of the Dance* ~

Scripture Reading:

John 20: 1-18 (Pew Bible p. 574)

Silent Meditation

Hymn: HWB no. 280,

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Message:

Life, Not Death

A Time of Reflection

1. In what ways does the resurrection of Jesus inform and empower our prophetic role as ministers of reconciliation? How might we more faithfully bear testimony to Christ's rising?
2. How does Daniel Bonnell's painting on our bulletin cover speak to the resurrection life we experience in the risen Christ?
3. How might you more faithfully practice living into the reality of Jesus and *bear witness to Christ's rising* today, proclaiming God's Kingdom come?

Hymn: HWB no. 648,

Morning Has Broken

Time of Offering

Offertory Invitation

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Christ Arose! ~ Robert Lowry

Call to Commitment

L: Jesus, we offer You all that we are — our hands, our hearts, our feet, and our minds.

P: As we depart from here, cleanse us from all that hinders us from living into the reality of Jesus that we might go and announce Your Kingdom.

L: Jesus, we go to share life, not death, bearing Your peace, not a sword,

P: We go from this place as ministers of reconciliation, bearing testimony to the resurrection:

ALL: I have seen the Lord!

Musical Response

Postlude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Arr. by Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

Worship Participants: Shirley Hofer & Paige Zachariasen (accompanists), Les Rensink (*song & worship leader*), Ladies Choir (*worship music*) and Todd Jones (*children's time & message*)

Stay in touch through Social Media:

HMC Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

HMC Facebook: www.facebook.com/HutterthalMennoniteChurch

Pastor's Facebook: www.facebook.com/MennPastor

Pastor's Twitter Feed: @MennPastor

Pastor's Sermon Blog: www.mennpastor.blogspot.com

TODAY

Greeters: Vernon & Norma Hofer

Coffee Time: Dave & Brandy Friesen

Worship Leader: Les Rensink

Song Leader: Les Rensink

11:10am: Sunday School

7:00pm: Holy Week Service

MW April Project: cash for MCC Relief Sale pancake breakfast

Children's S.S. Spring Project: First Fruit Community Gardens

NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Ray & Joyce Hofer

Accompanist: Edie Tschetter

Worship Music: Brandon & Kylea Waltner

Coffee Time: Steve & Charlene Friesen

THIS WEEK

Tues: Deacons Meeting, 7:30pm (Koerner Residence)

Wed.: Freeman Network for Justice & Peace, 11:30am (Freeman Public Library)

Music Comm. & accompanists meeting, 7:00 (HMC)

Sat.: CPMC Leadership Meeting (Des Moines)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 12: Gathering 58: 6, 9:00am

Apr. 13: Mennonite Women Work Night, 4:00pm

Apr. 14: Worship Committee, 6:30pm

Mission & Outreach, 7:30pm

Apr. 16: Church Board, 7:30pm

Apr 19-21: Annual Leaders Retreat (Schuyler, NE)

May 13: Freeman Area Baccalaureate Service, 7:00pm (Freeman Community Center)

May 26-30: Cross-Culture Thailand Trek VBS

PRAYER CONCERNS

· ***Pastor Max Villatoro and Family***

· **Heather VanMeveren**

· **Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC):** *On Saturday, April 11, congregational leaders from Central Plains churches will gather in Des Moines to consider the adoption of a covenant for tending to our relationships as a conference. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will be powerfully present to guide our discernment.*

· **Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):** *Today, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over evil and death, pray with MMN personnel that God will inspire in each of us the joyful impulse of the first missionaries, the women who shared good news of God's life and love across the street and around the world.*

· **Additional Prayers:**

Next Sunday, April 12, you are invited to participate in “**Gathering 58: 6,**” HMC's monthly breakfast conversation related to issues of justice and shalom. This is a time to engage in positive fellowship, to encourage one another in our faith journey, and to pray. The conversation will begin at 9:00am.

HMC is currently **gearing up** for both the Central Plains Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting to be held in Minneapolis, MN on June 18-21 and the Mennonite Church USA Biennial Convention to be held in Kansas City, MO on June 30-July 5 and you can help in several ways:

- 1) Pray over these important gatherings;
- 2) Consider being a delegate for HMC at the Central Plains Mennonite Conference (interested individuals are asked to speak with Colin Hofer or Pastor Todd);
- 3) Financially support our delegates attending the Mennonite Church USA Convention (The total cost for a single HMC delegate to attend convention, including hotel, meals, and registration is approx. \$1200.00. HMC will be sending 2 delegates to convention this summer. To financially support this ministry, you may place a monetary gift in the basket placed in the church foyer.)

Rachel Mendel Regier of Madrid NE passed away Monday, March 30. Rachel grew up in the Freeman Community and was a member here at Hutterthal. Her funeral service was held Friday, April 3, her 90th birthday. Mourning her passing from Hutterthal are Mildred Hofer, Ray and Joyce Hofer and Lorraine Hofer.

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 8:00pm in the Freeman Public

Library. All are welcome. (for more information, go to www.ruralrevival.org)

The next meeting of the **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will be Wednesday, **April 8, at 11:30 am** in the community room of the **Freeman Public Library**. All are welcome.

Study featuring Susanna Wesley will be at **7:30** at the **South Church, Thurs., April 9**. Susanna is a person whose faith sustained her as she operated within the confines of a challenging marriage, over-whelming family responsibilities, and many losses. See bulletin board.

The **Women's Society of the United Church of Canistota** has invited our congregation to an informational meeting on Sun., April 12, at 7:00pm, at their church in Canistota. Bethany Christian Services will present information on how to partner together to demonstrate Biblical hospitality to vulnerable families right here in Eastern SD. Safe Families for Children is a national movement of compassion, giving hope to families. There are many ways to participate. For more information go to www.safefamilies.org An RSVP is required, so please let Brigitta or the United Church Office (296-3339) know by April 8th if you are interested in attending. Refreshments will be served.

The **S.D. Mennonite Disaster Service** unit annual mtg. will be held **Sun., April 19, 2 pm, at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church**. Paul Unruh, MDS storyteller from Kansas, will be the featured speaker. A business meeting will follow where changes to term limits in the Constitution will be discussed. More details next week.

About the Bulletin Cover Art and Artist:

Resurrection #3

Daniel Bonnell lives in Savannah, Georgia where he continues to create art that seeks to, in his own words, “reflect on the ultimate human need to fulfill an intrinsic longing that extends from birth to death. Simply put, it is a need to be held. My art symbolically speaks to this notion, especially with darkness (black) embracing light (color), with negative space enclosing positive space, and with texture calling out to be touched.” As you enter now into the season of Easter, we invite you to meditate upon Bonnell’s work as you prayerfully engage our theme, *Living into the Reality of Jesus* and bear witness to His rising.

