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Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ-centered - Living, Relating, Serving

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LIVING INTO THE REALITY OF JESUS March 15, 2015

Prelude

Gathering Song: STJ no. 54,

Longing for Light

Lighting of the Peace Lamp

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Sharing Time

Congregational Prayer

Lord's Prayer (sins/sinned against us)

Call to Authenticity

L: Jesus, have we abandoned You? Have we chosen cold-hard cash rather than the unfathomable riches of Your love?

P: I used to seek You in the night watches when the silence was thick like a blanket. Now, I look for comfort in the noise and I fill every silence with sound for fear of what the silence may reveal.

L: Lord, whisper over the den that we may hear Your voice.

P: Speak again of Your unfailing love that we may be encouraged more by Your presence than by the things of this world that have long held our trust.

Silence

L: Jesus, help us to live into the reality of Your abiding love.

P: Draw near to us. Yes, silence us that we may hear You speak — that we may, even in our darkness, behold Your in-breaking light.

Hymn: HWB no. 530,

What Wondrous Love is This

Children's Time:

The Choice Between Darkness and Light

Scripture Reading:

John 3: 14-21 (Pew Bible p. 561)

Silent Meditation

Hymn: HWB no. 167,

For God so Loved Us

Message:

And You Will Find Love

A Time of Reflection

1. If you have experienced Jesus' "new birth," how are you demonstrating the love of Jesus to *all*? What stories can you tell about the disarming power of Jesus' love?
2. When/how in the absence of love, have you put fear, anger, hate, resentment, frustration, bitterness ... denial? What fruit was "produced" when you did this? How did you then respond? What might you do differently now?
3. Has your experience of God's love moved you to *live into the reality of Jesus*? How does Daniel Bonnell's painting on our bulletin cover speak to how we are to share the love of Christ?

4. What is love compelling you to do *today*? Where might you “put love” and thus “find love” in the coming week?

Hymn: HWB no. 102,

To God be the Glory

Time of Offering

Offertory Invitation

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Call to Commitment

L: Jesus calls us to live into His reality that His love may be clearly manifested in us.

P: God, even as You have sent Your Son, send us now! We go into the world, not to add to the darkness, but to bear Your light. We go, not to add to the noise, but to make peace.

Musical Response

Postlude

Worship Participants: Paige Zachariasen (accompanist), Joline Thomas (song leader), Jada Koerner (lighting of the peace lamp), Michelle Neuharth (worship leader), and Todd Jones (children’s time & message)

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Xavier Ward** (preparing for baptism on March 22)
- **Pastor Max Villatoro and Family**
- **Heather VanMeveren** (recovering from a blood clot)
- **Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC):** For the next two weekends, Freeman Academy and the whole Freeman community will host Schmeckfest, a festival weekend of exhibits, food, and a musical. Pray for the community and for the school as they work together to host many visitors.
- **Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):** Praise God for the language-learning progress that MMN’s Radical Journey team in Southeast Asia has made. Pray that they will use their increased fluency to share God’s love in words as well as deeds.

· ***Additional Prayers:***

TODAY

Greeters: Todd & Suzanne Koerner

Coffee Time: John & Deloris Stahl

11:10am: Sunday School

12:00pm: I-G Sponsored Potluck and Songfest

MW March Project: Hygiene Kits (see *Connection!* for details)

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

NEXT SUNDAY - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Greeters: John & Monica Clem

Accompanist: Edie Tschetter

Worship Leader: Jill Hofer

Song Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Coffee Time: Paul & Priscilla Hofer

12:00pm: Women's Choir

THIS WEEK

Tues.: Pastor-Peer — 9:15am (Sioux Falls)

Thurs.: Church Board — 7:30pm

Sat.: Women's Choir — 10:00am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 28: Women's Choir — 10:00am

Mar. 29-Apr. 1: Holy Week Services feat. Marlene Kropf — 7:00pm

Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion — 7:00pm

The Intergenerational class is sponsoring a Songfest **today**. We will have a **pot luck** after Sunday School followed by a time of singing together. We hope you will all join in this time off fellowship and song.

The **Women's Choir** will be sharing in song for the Easter celebration, April 5th! Due to my involvement in Schmeckfest and other commitments I need to meet at some unusual times. Check the calendar of events for weekly listings. - Amy

A new **pictorial directory** for Hutterthal is still in the works, however, due to scheduling conflicts, we are delaying the photo sessions until summer. We look forward to compiling this portrait of our church family and hope to resume work in the summer time. Thank you for your continued interest in this project and your patience as we move forward.--Monica Clem for the deacons

On Palm Sunday, March 29, we will be collecting a special offering for **the Benevolent Fund**. The Benevolent Fund is overseen by the Deacons of HMC and is used to assist members and friends of HMC who are suffering acute financial need. If you (or someone you know) is in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact a Deacon: Todd Koerner, Monica Hofer, or Monica Clem. NOTE: A basket will be placed in the church foyer for the collection of this offering. Thank you!

From Shana Boshart Peachey: “It appears that our efforts are getting the attention of ICE officials. Now it is time to call the ICE office in St. Paul. Call 612-843-8600 and say, “Hi, my name is _____ and I’m calling to ask that ICE stops the deportation of Max Villatoro (A# 094-338-085). Max serves as a pastor at his church in Iowa City, has four U.S. citizen children, and has been an exemplary servant leader in his community for the past 20 years. There are clear factors in Max’s case indicating that he is not a threat to national security, border security or public safety, and therefore should not be an enforcement priority. We ask that Max be considered for relief under ICE’s prosecutorial discretion guidelines.”

Holy Week 2015:

1) Hutterthal is hosting the annual Holy Week celebration this year. Our guest speaker is Marlene Kropf who will be sharing “**The Jesus-Journey: Pilgrimage to the Cross.**” Services begin Sunday, March 29 and run through Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00pm each evening. We encourage you to invite friends and family to this special celebration.

2) **Meals with Marlene:** Would you like to host Marlene Kropf (and Stanley, her husband) for lunch or supper? If you are interested in having the opportunity to sit down with Marlene and Stanley, we encourage you to let Pastor Todd know. He can assist you with arrangements.

3) Holy Week **Offering Designation:** Once expenses have been met we will be collecting funds for Central Plains Mennonite Conference’s continuing work among and with us. We will also be collecting hygiene products for the Bethany Food Pantry. You may bring these items to the church for placement in the Church Foyer.

4) On **Maundy Thursday**, April 2, we will be gathering at 7:00pm for worship. The service will include a celebration of Communion. At HMC, we celebrate an “open table” and invite all who have received Jesus as Savior and Lord to share in the bread and cup.

SCHMECKFEST:

- **Heritage Hall Museum needs hosts** to assist visitors during both weekends. Hosting is a fun, simple job and can be done with a partner so bring a friend! Contact Kelsey Ortman at 605-421-1318 or [email museum@freemaninfo.com](mailto:museum@freemaninfo.com).
- The Freeman Academy Auxiliary appreciates everyone who has volunteered to work at Schmeckfest. **We still have positions to fill** in the areas of table service, clearing and resetting. If you are willing to help, or have suggestions of possible workers, please contact Debra Schmeichel at ssag@goldenwest.net or 648-3430.
- The **Country Kitchen is asking for donations of food items** for March 20, 21, 27, and 28. Poppyseed rolls, fruit pockets, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish, and summer s savory sell especially well. Items should be marked.
- LaVonne Meyer, SDSU **Food Safety Field Specialist**, will give a presentation in the Freeman Academy Chapel at **2:25pm on Wed., March 18**. Anyone who is working with food prep for Schmeckfest, MCC Sale or other fundraising events is welcome to attend.
- The Coffee Shop has moved to Frontier Hall where we will be serving all your coffee shop favorites. The new space offers Wi-fi, comfortable seating, live music and breakfast starting at 8am on Saturday.

About the Bulletin Cover Art and Artist:

The Moon The Dove and the Footwasher

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 continue our Lenten journey, we invite you to meditate upon Bonnell’s work as you prayerfully engage our theme, *Living into the Reality of Jesus*.

