

Mennonite Church of Normal Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 14, 2021

The writer to the Hebrews (12:1-11) explains why and how God disciplines us. Considering all we have had to do without over the past year, it is as if we have all been sent to our rooms. *What have we learned from our time out?* Will our behavior as children of God, be different when the time-out ends?

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude

Denise Hedberg

Greeting & Congregational Life

Nancy & Gail Fisher

Called to Worship in Song: VT 740 *Spirit of the Living God* HWB 349

Prayer Loving God, who created us and sustains us:

We come with thanksgiving for these moments when we can slow down and listen for your voice. Create a spirit within us that truly draws us toward you and toward our sisters and brothers: a spirit deep, perceptive, gentle, and bold. Clear our minds, open our hearts, and touch us with your presence and power. In the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and our Savior, Amen.

Praising the Name of Jesus

With our Voices in Song: VT 717 *Renew your church* HWB 363

VT 547 *How Clear is our vocation* HWB 541

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time

Gerry Schrock

Invitation to Listen: VT 405 Listen to the Word

Scripture Hebrews 12:1-11

Sermon *What have we learned from our time out?*

Gary Martin

Receiving God's Grace

Testimony

Lynn Reha

Confession

Gary Martin

Leader: Creator God, in the beginning, you made beautiful things out of chaos.

People: Lord Jesus, forgive us for our limited curiosity for the beautiful things you are creating out of today's chaos.

Leader: Redeeming God, you brought beautiful Life out of Jesus' pain and suffering

People: Lord Jesus, forgive us for our limited faith in the power of your Love to create beautiful things in the midst of today's chaos.

Leader: "You are forgiven," declares our merciful God.

ALL: God, we rejoice in your great mercy, which is making us new.

Affirming our faith in God's mercy: VT 551 Beautiful Things

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jhfOiWUmgiciad0z6WXZYBS2Cm9zVKau/view?usp=sharing>

Sharing and Prayer

Leah Roeschley

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Benediction

Gary Martin

Postlude

Denise Hedberg

Hebrews 12:1-12 The Inclusive Bible

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. 2 Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.

For the sake of the joy to come, Jesus endured the cross, heedless of its shame, and now sits at the right of God's throne. 3 Think of Jesus—who endured such opposition from sinners—so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 In your struggles against sin, you still haven't resisted to the point of shedding our blood.

5 Moreover, you have forgotten the encouraging words addressed to you as daughters and sons,

“My children, when our God corrects you, don't treat it lightly;
And don't get discouraged when you are reprimanded.

6 For God disciplines the ones God loves and punishes
all whom God acknowledges as daughters and sons.”

7 Endure your trials as the discipline of God, who deals with you as daughters and sons. Have there ever been any children whose parents didn't discipline them? 8 If you aren't disciplined—and everyone receives discipline—then you are illegitimate children and not heirs.

9 Moreover, we had our human parents to discipline us, and we respected them for it. Wouldn't we much rather submit ourselves to our spiritual Parent, and live? 10 Our parents applied discipline for the short term—doing what they thought best. But God does it for our own good—that we may share in the divine holiness.

11 At the time it was administered, any discipline seems a cause for grief, not joy, but later it bears fruit in peace and justice for those formed by it.