

Mennonite Church of Normal
Feb. 28, 2021

LENT 2 Deep in the woods: Called to deep commitment

FOCUS: We are transformed by God as we follow God's voice along the path of life, a voice calling us to deep commitment. Even when our path leads deep into unfamiliar woods, as we lose ourselves, we are found.

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude

Dorothy Loepp

Greetings and Congregational Life

Marge Weaver

Call to Worship

Marge

One: God, you ask us to set our minds on you,
to walk before you and be blameless.
You teach us what matters,
and you do not hide your face from us.

**Many: With each step along the path,
we are transformed
into who you made and called us to be.**

One: God, you teach us that when we lose our life, we save it.

**Many: With each step along the path,
we hope against hope in your promises.**

One: God, you say you will make us exceedingly fruitful,
that you will bless us.

**Many: With each step along the path,
we take up our cross and follow you.**

**All: *We believe your everlasting covenant is to be God to us,
that we will live forever.***

We call out to you, as you call us deeper into this covenant.

Praising the Name of Jesus

With Voices in Song

VT 540 Will You Come and Follow Me (STS 39)

VT 748 Take, O Take Me as I Am (STJ 81)

Prayer

Marge

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time

Annette Harnish

Invitation to Listen

VT 405 Listen to the Word

Scripture

Mark 8:31-38, Romans 4:13-25

Jaron Zehr

Sermon

What do we have to lose?

Gary Martin

Response Hymn

VT 287 Jesus Christ is Waiting (STJ 30)

Receiving God's Grace

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Marge

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our heart.

One: We confess we have stayed on the edges.

Not listening to each other.

Not taking the path you show.

We confess we have strayed from the way.

Silencing suffering.

Forfeiting life.

(In this silence, name the forces that keep us from deep commitment.)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

**Many: Calling us to deep commitment,
we come to you, God.**

Response Ritual and Hymn

stone of deep commitment

Marge

VT 701 You Are All We Have (STJ 29)

Sharing and Prayer

Elfriede Massier

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending Hymn

VT 778 Will You Let Me be Your Servant (HWB 307)

Benediction

Marge

Postlude

Dorothy