

Mennonite Church of Normal
March 7, 2021

LENT Week 3: Deep in the changing sky: Called to deep wisdom

FOCUS: In the patterns and glory of God's creation, and in God's commandments and promises, we are called to obtain deep wisdom. God's wisdom undermines our assumptions and takes us deeper than our efforts can lead us.

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude	Elsa Raab
Welcome/Announcements	Shannon Neely
Call to Worship <i>Adapted from Psalm 19</i>	Shannon

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Many: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech . . . yet the voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Many: In the heavens you set a tent for the sun. . . . Its rising is from the end of the
heavens, its circuit to the end of them; nothing is hid from its heat.

One: The law of the **LORD** is perfect . . . sure . . . clear . . . true and righteous.
The fear of the **LORD** is pure.

Many: God, clear us from hidden faults; teach us to trust you.

All: Let the words and meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O **LORD**,
our rock and redeemer.

We call out to you, as you call us to deeper wisdom.

Opening Prayer	Shannon
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Praising the Name of Jesus

Songs of Praise

VT 529 God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

VT 495 Morning Has Broken

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story:	Annette Harnish
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Invitation to Listen: VT 405 Listen to the Word

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17 (NRSV); 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (French)

Clara Ponnou-Delaffon

Sermon:

Ten Words (not nine)

Gary Martin

Receiving God's Grace

Response Song: VT 196 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Shannon

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: We confess when we have settled into sameness,
forgetting the rhythms of the heavens,
ignoring the rhythms of justice.

We confess when we have not looked up
into the eyes of a neighbor,
into your Word that still lives.

(Silence. What are the forces that keep us from deep wisdom?)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep wisdom.

We come to you, God.

Response Ritual: Stone of deep wisdom

Shannon

- How is God calling you to deep wisdom?
- What area of your life needs God's wisdom?

Response Song: VT 701 You are All We Have

Sharing Joys & Concerns; Prayer

Erin Ponnou-Delaffon

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending Hymn VT 332 In Christ Alone

Benediction

Shannon

Postlude Go in the Grace of the Lord

MCN Men's Chorus

Exodus 20:1-17 (NRSV)

Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation^[b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.^[c]

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.