

JUNE 6TH, 2021

**MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORMAL**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Gathering in God's Presence**

Welcome/Congregational Life

Prelude

Call to Worship

Gary Martin  
Dorothy Loepp

Psalm 63:1-8

Leader: O God, you are our God, we seek you,  
our souls thirst for you; our flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**South: So we have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

**North: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
our lips will praise you.**

***All: So we will bless you as long as we live;  
We will lift up our hands and call on your name.***

Leader: Our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and our mouths praise you with joyful lips  
when we think of you on our beds.  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

***All: for you have been our help,  
and in the shadow of your wings we sing for joy.  
Our souls clings to you; your right hand upholds us.***

**Gathering Prayer**

**Litany of Lament**

Leader: God of our weary hearts and silent tears, we acknowledge your mighty strength and comfort today. Only you can receive the flood of our tears and grief over the deaths from the coronavirus of three and a half million of your precious children.

**North:** We weep and mourn, as did Rachel, whose voice was heard in Ramah, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

**South:** We weep and mourn for those who didn't need to die, who died alone, whose funerals were lonely, or yet to happen.

***All: Forgive us for our national sin of allowing disproportionate numbers of persons of color to be among the fallen, victimized by health care inequities and the unbearable burden of systemic racial injustice.***

Leader: We lament the stressful realities of the loss of health, employment, homes, and family gatherings for birthdays, graduations, weddings, and funerals. We lament being separated for 15 months from our brothers and sisters in this faith community.

**North:** We lament the stressful work environments so many experienced in health care, transportation, education, and other essential services.

**South:** We lament the young families who struggled month after month with the realities of working at home, virtual schooling, and lack of childcare.

**All: We lament the falsehoods which divided our nation and created unnecessary fear and mistrust of vaccines.**

Leader: All this has happened, Lord God, but we have not forgotten your promise to be with us in trouble and delivers us. We know Christ weeps with us and sends us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, revealing the new thing you are doing among us.

**All: You, alone, O God, can turn our mourning into dancing and our grief into joy. We turn to you with grateful hearts for your faithfulness in the midst of our suffering.**

North: Bless those who remain hungry, or homeless, or hopeless.

South: Bless those who continue to work courageously and tirelessly to respond to human need.

**All: And bless us, your people in this place, as we renew our commitment to follow your ways forward into the new adventure which awaits us.**

## **Praising God Together**

### **Songs of Praise**

VT 10 Here in This Place  
VT 495 Morning Has Broken

### **Hearing God's Word**

#### **Children's Story**

Shannon Unzicker

#### **Preparation:**

VT 405 Listen to the Word that God has Spoken

#### **Scripture Reading:**

Philippians 3:7-16-

Bess Desch

#### **Sermon:**

Press On to Know

Lynette Miller

### **Receiving God's Grace**

#### **Reconciling:**

VT 902

### **Sharing Joys & Concerns; Prayer**

### **Sent in the Spirit's Power**

#### **Sending Song :**

The Lord Lift You Up VT 832

#### **Benediction:**

#### **Postlude:**

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION  
& OFFICE HOURS**

Dorothy Loepf

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, gmartin5@comcast.net  
In Normal: June 4-6; 12-13; 17-21 Vacation days: June 10-11

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Bryan Oyer, custodian

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com

#### **Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday, 12:00-4:30; Sunday, 9:00-4:00

\*Devon is available virtually on Monday's, 12:00-4:30 pm