

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH
February 28, 2010 Second Sunday of Lent
“Holding On, Letting Go”

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

L: Sometimes we stumble in deep darkness.

P: Even then, God is our shelter.

L: Sometimes we clutch the things of this world.

P: Even then, the Spirit can pry us loose.

L: Sometimes we insist on staying the way we are.

P: Even then, Jesus can transform our lives.

HOLDING ON

***Hymns:** “God of our strength” #36 HWB
“The Lord is my light” #97 STJ

Affirmation of Faith #711 HWB

Children’s gathering hymn: “Come and see” #20 HWB

Children’s time: “Things that comfort” ~ Barb Beers

Hymn: “Don’t be afraid” #105 STJ

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Old Testament reading: Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18

Gospel reading: Philippians: 3:17-4:1

Sermon: “Dispossession and doxology: ‘He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory’ ”

LETTING GO

Confession

Assurance: #707 HWB

Hymn: “By gracious powers” #552 HWB

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. AMEN

Offering and Offertory

Announcements (*please give in writing to the pastor or worship leader*)

Introduction of Guests

***Sending Hymn:** “I am weak and I need thy strength” #553 HWB

***Benediction**

L: God of light, you are the source of all true seeing.

P: Let our families see your light.

L: Let our communities see your light.

P: Let your light spread throughout the world. Amen

***Passing the Peace / Postlude**

Community Time

- Fellowship time –10:45-11:10 a.m.

- Children’s singing – 11 a.m. Education wing chapel

- Christian education – 11:15-noon Adult electives:

- Membership exploration (3 weeks) – in Pastor’s Study
- Parent connection to Gather ‘Round – Rm 202, Education wing
- Speaking of Faith – Library
- Ways to Pray – Chapel, Education wing

TODAY: Second Sunday of Lent: Stand firm in the Lord

Worship Leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Ry Siggelkow

Song leader: Donna Stucky

Piano: Sandra Westby

Nursery volunteers: Jason Derrickson & Jenny Wandersee

Fellowship: Kathleen Harder & Leslie Minkler

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Lent / Communion

Worship Leader: Ry & Marcia Siggelkow **Sermon:** Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Sarah Yoder

Piano: Melissa Falb

Nursery volunteers: Rhonda Martin & Eric Kasper

Fellowship: Heather Wengerd & One Volunteer Needed

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Feb. 21: Attendance: 86

Offering: \$3,505.00 (designated \$25)

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

2720 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406 Ph: 612-375-9483

E: faithmc@faithmennonite.org Web: www.faithmennonite.org

FMC OFFICE HOURS: March 1-5

Pastor: Mon 1-5; Wed 11-4; Thurs 10-4; Friday 9-noon. Tuesday is a study day.
Joetta is open to receiving phone calls on Mon. and Wed. evening from 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Staff Person: Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.
Phone messages for Kathleen can be left at VM #2 at the church. You can email her at minstaff@faithmennonite.org

Office Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:
faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

TODAY at 2:00-4:00 pm Family-friendly Concert to benefit the **Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership**. Since 2004, Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership has provided an alternative to juvenile court for youth committing misdemeanor offenses in Seward and Greater Longfellow. Freewill donations will be gratefully accepted. Door prizes and refreshments.

March Birthday Brunch, Sat., March 6, 9:30-11:30 a.m. If you or a family member has a birthday in March, pastor Joetta invites you to her home, 248 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, for brunch on March 6. (This invitation is for whole families, not just the birthday person.) Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area or email: jschlabach@faithmennonite.org

Church Meetings and Events

March 2 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32; Lk 15:1-3; 11b-32) 8:30 a.m., Trotter's, Corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

March 8 – Church Council meeting, 7 p.m., chapel

March 12 & 13 – CPMC Worship Arts Tour

March 12 & 14 – Men's Retreat, Snowshoe Lodge

March 17 – Deacon Commission, 9:30 a.m., Richardson's

March 19 – FMC Variety Show, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

March 23 – Missions & Service Commission, 6:30 p.m., Chapel

Announcements

The **visual elements** for the season of Lent were designed by **Lauren Brown**. Other members of the Lent Worship Planning Committee are Gregg Richardson, Ry Siggelkow and Adam Nafziger.

Church security note: Our custodian has found the 28th Avenue door ajar on several occasions. It was locked but not latched. We ask everyone, especially if you are the last person out of the building, or if you enter during the week, to **please ensure that the door latches behind you**. Because we have only part-time custodial service and no night watch person, the security of our building is the responsibility of all. Thanks!

Plans are getting underway for a one-week Vacation Bible School for children age 4 through grade 4, June 14-18, 9-11:30 a.m. Please mark your calendar and contact Shelly Hendricks if you would like to get involved: we'll need teachers, helpers, snack providers, etc. Help one morning or all five!

The Fellowship Commission has decided to serve **fair trade coffee during fellowship time**. To help support the cost of purchasing the coffee we will have a **collection box for donations to cover the extra cost**.

Lent and Easter music – Neil Okerlund will be leading the Menno' Faith and a mixed choir in preparing music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Following is the schedule of practices. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to rehearse.

March 7 Men after Sunday School hour (1/2 hour)
March 14 Mixed choir after Sunday School hour (1/2 hour)
March 21 Mixed choir during Sunday School hour (11:15-noon)
March 21 Men after Sunday School hour (1/2 hour)
March 28 (Palm Sunday) Mixed choir at 9 am; sings for service
April 4 (Easter) Men rehearse at 9 am; sing for service

Choral Clinic at FMC — Dr. Tim Seelig: Thursday, March 4

One Voice Mixed Chorus will be working with a guest clinician on Thursday, March 4 (7-9 pm) here at the church and they have invited Faith Church choir members to join them for the workshop on choral singing, vocal technique, etc. Tim is internationally known as a conductor, clinician and all-around-very-funny guy.

Variety Show at Faith – Dust off your tap shoes, warm up your voice and practice that comedy routine, it's time for a variety show at Faith! Please join us on **Friday, March 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at the church to show everyone your talents. Email Rhonda Martin reserve your spot in the variety show: rmartinmsw@yahoo.com to.

Act now to save GAMC, March 1 at 12:30 pm, The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition will host an interfaith vigil at the state capitol prior to the House vote to override Gov. Pawlenty's veto. Gather outside the House Chamber. We will be respectful, solemn, hopeful.

Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Philippians: 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

L: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,

All: Thanks be to God.