

**FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH**  
March 21, 2010 Fifth Sunday of Lent  
“Holding On, Letting Go”

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

L: When God restored us, it was like a dream:

**P: we laughed aloud and shouted for joy.**

L: Those around us noticed the difference:

**P: they saw what God had done**

*All: This is what we long for: God's saving presence, always.*

**HOLDING ON**

\***Hymns:** “Praise with joy the world's creator” #16 STJ  
“Seek ye first the kingdom of God” #324 HWB

**Affirmation of faith:** #135 STJ (English)

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

**Children's time:** “Something beautiful for Jesus” ~ Adam Nafziger

**Hymn:** “My Jesus, I love thee” #522 HWB

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament reading:** Isaiah 43:16-21

**Gospel reading:** John 12:1-8

**Sermon:** “A way in the wilderness”

**LETTING GO**

**Confession**

**Assurance:** #709 HWB

**Hymn:** “I will come to you in the silence” (insert)

**Congregational Sharing**

Commissioning of MDS Service Group

**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'm pressing on the upward way” #96 STJ

\***Benediction**

L: Beloved by God, a blessing to your congregation,  
go now as God's emissaries into the world.

**P: We are willing. Use us, Lord. 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** There are four adult classes:

- Parent connection to Gather 'Round – Rm 202, Education wing
- Speaking of Faith – Library
- Ways to Pray – Chapel, Education wing

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**TODAY:** Fifth Sunday of Lent: Rivers in the Desert

**Worship Leader:** Joetta Schlabach

**Sermon:** Weldon Nisly

**Reader:** Matthew Kinney

**Flute:** Jennifer Wandersee

**Song leader:** Adam Nafziger

**Piano:** Cathy Smetana

**Nursery volunteers:** Joan Wing & Barb Beers

**Education hour:** Jason Derrickson and 1 volunteer needed

**Fellowship:** Laurie Kaufman & one volunteer needed

*Weldon Nisly, pastor of Seattle Mennonite Church, is our guest speaker.*

*Weldon is spending a sabbatical semester at the Collegeville Institute at St. John's Abbey. In January he made a return trip to Iraq, commemorating his 2003 visit there with a Christian Peacemaker Team delegation as the US was beginning the Iraq War.*

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**NEXT SUNDAY:** Palm/Passion Sunday (Luke 22:14-23:49)

**Worship Leader:** Joetta Schlabach

**Song leader:** Gregg Richardson

**Piano:** Sandra Westby

**Nursery volunteers:** Beth Richardson & Matthew Hendricks

**Fellowship:** Volunteers Needed

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*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.*

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HWB: Hymnal Worship Book      STJ: Sing the Journey

\**Please stand if you are able*

## Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom

Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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### FMC OFFICE HOURS: Mar 22-26

**Pastor:** Monday 1-5 p.m.; Wed 10-4 p.m.; Thurs 11-3 p.m.; Tuesday is a study day. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m..

**Ministry Staff Person:** Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.

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

**Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:**  
[faithmc@faithmennonite.org](mailto:faithmc@faithmennonite.org). Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

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**Mar 14:** Attendance: 82                  Offering: \$1,286

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**Thanksgivings:** Men's retreat; Madeline's Watson Fellowship for study outside of the US in 2010-2011; Lauri's sister's clear health report; good medical care Joan K received after an allergic reaction; Wilderness Wind board; Worship Arts Tour; the lives of Glenn Geissinger's mother and Gene Stoltzfus, Eric's trip to Washington DC for immigration reform witness

**Concerns:** Chris & Annette's friends who are considering divorce; Melissa H's grandmother who suffered brain injury from a fall; single parents; health care reform; Minke's employment decision; immigration reform

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### Church Meetings and Events

March 23 – Lectionary Discussion Group (Acts 10:34-43; Jn 20:1-18)

8:30 a.m., Trotter's, Corner of Marshall & Cleveland, SP

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

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Meal & Service, 6 p.m.

April 4 – Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. (no Christian education)

April 14 – Church Council meeting, 7 p.m., chapel

**STAR: Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience Level-I Training, June 23-27, Augsburg College. Elaine Zook-Barge, MA** STAR Program Director and **Donna Minter, PhD, STAR Associate**

STAR trauma healing workshops have trained thousands of caregivers and leaders worldwide to promote healing, revitalize their communities, and stop cycles of victimhood and violence. By attending this four-day experiential education seminar, you'll join more than 5,000 participants from 62 countries who have been equipped with strategies for handling post-traumatic stress and leading others beyond traumatic events, informed by the latest trauma healing research from the fields of neurobiology, psychology, restorative justice, conflict transformation, peace-building, and religion/spirituality.

For more information go to: <http://starmpls.eventbrite.com/> Register by April 30, 2010 and receive the discount rate of \$525.00 (full cost is \$625.00). **Four scholarships will be available to FMC participants.** Those interested in scholarship assistance should contact Kathleen Remund, Ministry Staff Person, for details *before registering*: [minstaff@faithmennonite.org](mailto:minstaff@faithmennonite.org).

**Share the Gift of Hospitality** – As registrations begin to come in for the **STAR training** Donna Minter is offering in June, we anticipate a need for housing. Some of the participants will be coming from outside the Twin Cities metro, and will need a place to sleep at night. If you have comfortable space for a guest, live within a few miles of Augsburg College, and would like to extend hospitality to a STAR participant, please contact Kathleen Remund at [minstaff@faithmennonite.org](mailto:minstaff@faithmennonite.org) or by phone at 612-375-9483.

**House to share** – Rebecca Johnson is looking for two people to share a house with her in Southeast Minneapolis – two singles or one couple is fine. Anyone interested should give her a call at 612-267-5306 for further information. The house comes with washer and dryer, use of freezer space, etc.

**Bookkeeper (volunteer) needed at the Ten Thousand Villages, St. Paul store.** We have an immediate need for a weekly bookkeeper to manage our daily sales reports and enter information into Quickbooks; to report financial information to our Treasurer Denise Miller, and to reconcile bank and credit card reports. With budget constraints, we are searching for a volunteer first before hiring into the position. It will be about a 6 hours per week in the office at the store. **Kathy McGinley, Store Manager, 867 Grand Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105, Phone 651-225-1043** [stpaul@tentousandvillages.com](mailto:stpaul@tentousandvillages.com).

### **Isaiah 43:16-21**

Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

### **John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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.**

## Announcements

**Two persons, Bob Brown and Eric Kasper, will make a commitment of membership on Easter Sunday.** Adam Nafziger, already a member, will join Eric in the rite of baptism. If there are others who would like to become members at this time, please speak with the pastor or one of the deacons.

**Church Office Staffing Changes** As a result of the growth in attendance and of commission and community-outreach activities, the trustees and pastor have recognized the need for reconfiguring our office staff position. We have posted a revised job description, with an increased emphasis on administrative coordination, and hope to fill the position beginning in early May. Dan Leisen will continue in his current role until the new position is filled.

Information concerning the position and a description of the job responsibilities are posted on the Faith website, [www.faithmennonite.org](http://www.faithmennonite.org).

Glenn Geissinger, chair of the Trustee and Stewardship Commission, will be happy to respond to any questions.

**Nursery volunteers needed — We would like to start a separate nursery care space for younger children** (approx. 12 months to 3 years) in the nursery near the fellowship hall area, and we need to have two adults there to watch them. This will allow those children's parents to attend Sunday School, and it is a good opportunity for others in the church to have fun being entertained by cute, little toddlers! **If you can help**, please contact Shelly Hendricks at [smhendricks2@msn.com](mailto:smhendricks2@msn.com) or 612.501.3382. Thank you!

**Benefit Concert for Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale, March 24, 7 p.m. —** The Light of His Grace, Tabor College Concert Choir at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 725 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Mpls. A free will offering will be taken to support the November TC MCC Sale.

**Thank you for the wonderful response to the Haiti earthquake.** However, due to a decrease in general giving in the last two years, **Mennonite Central Committee has been forced to make cuts to vital programming** around the world. As part of these budget reductions, the MCC Central States offices, workroom and warehouse in North Newton, KS will be closed on Fridays, effective April 2010. An "After Hours Donation Drop-Off" room is always open for you to leave material aid donations. **Please consider giving a "where needed most" donation to support MCC's work.** Send checks to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117 or donate on-line at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org).