

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

July 10, 2016 ~ Worship in the Park

***Gathering Songs:** “God of the earth, the sky, the sea” #53
“Let all creation bless the Lord” #61

Silent Interlude

***Welcome and Call to Worship** based on Psalm 136
Response: God's love forever!

***Hymn:** “For the beauty of the earth” #89

Litany of God's Benefits (written for the 50th wedding anniversary of Richard & Sandra Westby)

One: Creating God, your heart throbbed with loving, generative energy
 as you brought forth the universe.
 From atom to mountain, raindrop to glacier, hummingbird to eagle,
 lichen to towering white pine,
 your works pay silent homage to the wondrous mystery that brought them forth.
 You sustain them from generation to generation.

**All: We stand in awe, our hearts unfolding like flowers,
 and thank you, Creator God, for the beauty that surrounds us.**

Dick & Sandy: We will not forget God's benefits: God satisfies us with good as long as we live.

One: Merciful Parent, you know how we are made; you know we are dust.
 So you always take the first step: extending forgiveness, covenant, and redemption.
 In compassion you call the meek, the lonely, the oppressed,
 And draw them into the circle of your love.
 There your merciful hands guide us, gently drawing us back each time we stray.

**All: In the bonds of community and in covenant relationships we come to know how great
 is your steadfast love to all your children.**

Dick & Sandy: We will not forget God's benefits: God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

One: Loving Spirit, as if it were not enough to create the world,
 to free your people from slavery and lead them into a land of plenty,
 to send your word through prophets and wise ones,
 you made your Word flesh, pitching tent among us.
 In Jesus you spoke your ultimate Word, and in his death you showed the power of your love.
 In your Pentecostal love you breathed your Spirit over, within, and among us.

**All: By your power we love. By your example we forgive. In your Spirit we bear all things,
 believe all things, hope all things and endure all things.**

Dick & Sandy: We will not forget God's benefits: the greatest of these is love.

One: Suffering Servant, you did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
 but emptied yourself, taking the form of a slave.
 You healed the sick, fed the hungry crowds, calmed the tempests, drew outcasts to your table,
 kneeled to wash your disciples' feet.
 And then you gave your very self, flesh and blood, to redeem us.

**All: We work out our salvation with fear and trembling: Led by your example we serve with joy.
 Nourished by you we find strength to be your hands and feet in our world.**

Dick & Sandy: We will not forget God's benefits: God renews our youth as the eagle's.

Children's Gathering Song: "Come and see"

Children's Time: Andy Martinson

Song: "Jesus is a friend"

Epistle reading: 2 Corinthians 2:1-10

So I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice; for I am confident about all of you, that my joy would be the joy of all of you. For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

But if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but to some extent—not to exaggerate it—to all of you. This punishment by the majority is enough for such a person; so now instead you should forgive and console him, so that he may not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. I wrote for this reason: to test you and to know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ.

Leader: 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.

Story of Faith: Hayley Brooks

Hymn: "There's a wideness in God's mercy" #145, vv. 1, 3, 4

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother 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: "Siyahamba / We are marching in the light of God"

Announcements / Introduction of Guests

***Sung benediction:** You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.

The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

***Sharing the sign of peace / Dismissal**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship time: We will walk to the Westby garden, to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Richard & Sandra Westby. Co-hosts: Reinert family

TODAY: Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach **Faith Story:** Hayley Brooks **Song leader:** Miriam Augsburg

Ushers: Stew Thornley, Rhonda Martin **Nursery:** Rebecca Wright

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Co-Pastors: Joetta Schlabach & Ry Siggelkow

Deacons: Katie Cuffey, Glenn Geissinger, Kristin Green, Hermann Weinlick, Heather Wengerd