

Halstead First Mennonite Church

August 16, 2020

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful summer day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

Gathering- Kent Dick

There is a Redeemer – Wagner

Great is Thy Faithfulness – Runyan-Landon

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing – Page/Payne

Welcome and Announcements- Melanie Haspels

Centering Music- Kent Dick

God Himself is With Us - Neander

Call to Worship

When hatred and division separate us,
God's love binds us together.

When quarrels estrange us from one another,
Christ's light shows us the way to reconciliation.

When we feel excluded and left out,
The Spirit's peace eases our pain.

When all hope of fellowship seems lost,
God's grace restores our hope.

Come! Let us worship God, who makes us one.

Praise Song- This is My Father's World- HWB #154

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car-ols raise, the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world. Oh, let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their ma-ker's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong God is the ru - ler yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world, he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world, the bat - tle is not done. Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas - his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - 'ry - where.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

Praise Song- *I Will Exalt Thee*

Verse

For Thou oh Lord art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods
For Thou oh Lord art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods

Chorus

I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee oh Lord
I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee
I exalt Thee oh Lord

Praise Song- *On Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*

Verse 1

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains

Chorus

Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me
(REPEAT)
Your love

Bridge

In death in life I'm confident and
Cover'd by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great
love
(REPEAT)

Verse 2

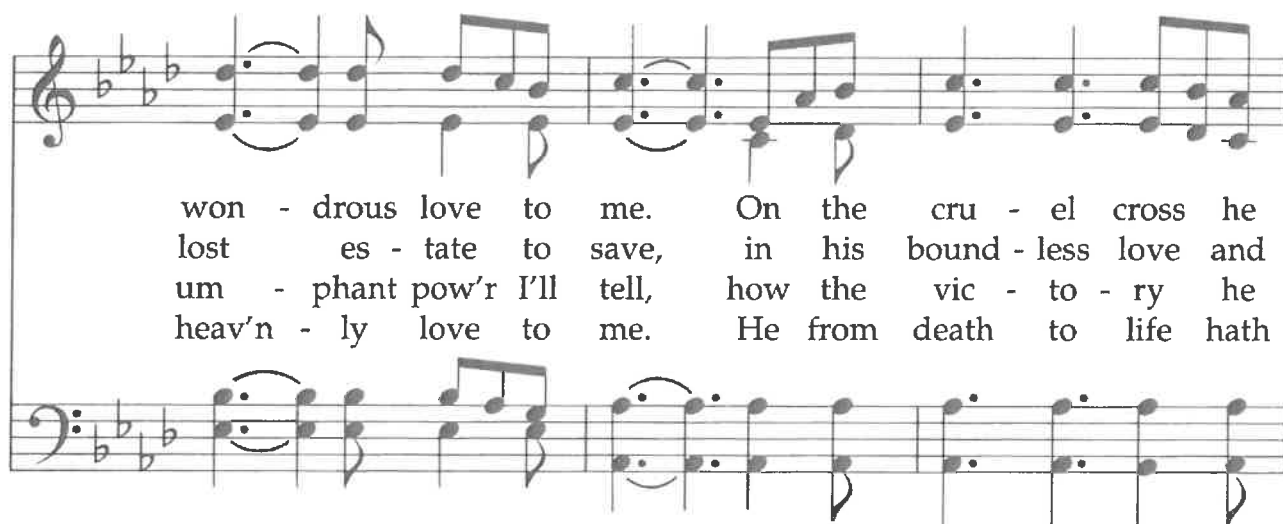
On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

Children's Story

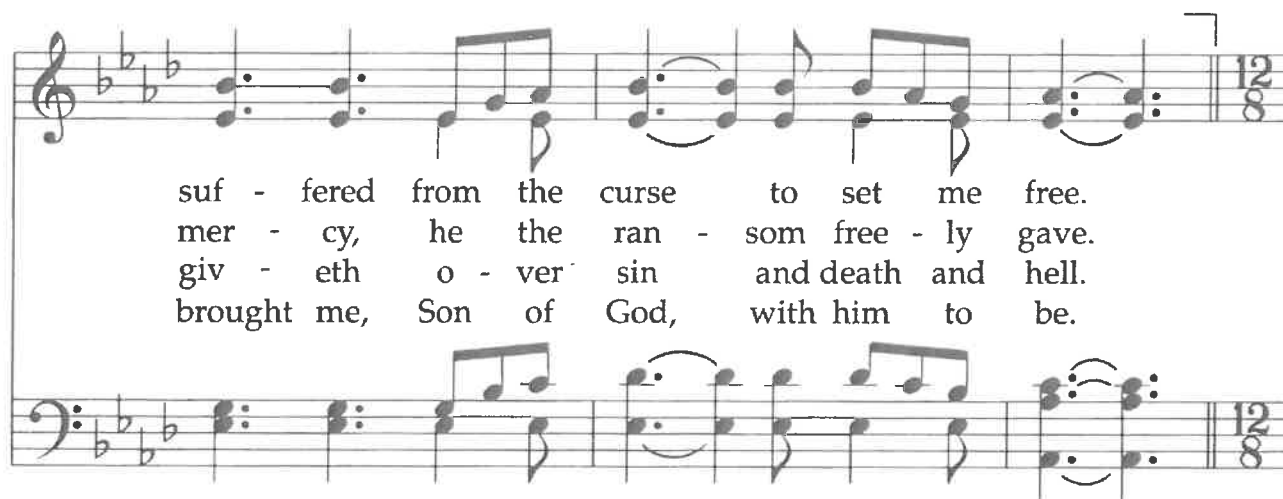
Praise Song- *I Will Sing of My Redeemer* - HWB #344



1 I will sing of my Re - deem - er and his
2 I will tell the won - drous sto - ry, how, my
3 I will praise my dear Re - deem - er, his tri -
4 I will sing of my Re - deem - er, and his



won - drous love to me. On the cru - el cross he
lost es - tate to save, in his bound - less love and
um - phant pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry he
heav'n - ly love to me. He from death to life hath



suf - fered from the curse to set me free.
mer - cy, he the ran - som free - ly gave.
giv - eth o - ver sin and death and hell.
brought me, Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Sing, oh sing of my Re - deem - er, with his
Sing, oh sing of my Re-deem-er, sing, oh sing of my Re-deem-er, with his

blood he pur - chased me, on the
blood he pur-chased me, with his blood he pur-chased me, on the

cross he sealed my par - don, paid the
cross he sealed my par-don, on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the

debt and made me free.
debt and made me free, and made me free.

Praise Song- *Nothing to Fear*

Verse 1

When you pass through the waters
I will be with you
And the depths of the rivers
Shall not overwhelm
When you walk through the fire
You will not be burned
I am the Lord I am the Lord

Chorus

And there is nothing to fear nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear nothing to fear
For I am with you always

Verse 2

In the depths of your sorrow
I wept beside you
When you walked through the shadow
I drew you near
Yesterday today tomorrow
Always the same
I am the Lord I am the Lord

Bridge

What can separate you from my perfect love
(REPEAT)
Do not fear do not fear do not fear

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture – Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that, his brothers talked with him.

Message– *God our Great Redeemer!* - Pastor Steve

Closing Song – *There is a Redeemer*

Verse 1

There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One

Chorus

Thank You O my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done

Verse 2

Jesus my Redeemer name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah
O for sinners slain

Verse 3

When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place

Benediction

Postlude- *Ye Nations Praise the Lord* – O'Donnell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Steve will be mostly working from home until the beginning of school (Sept. 3). He is happy to meet you at the church when needed. Please call or text him at 316-322-5651.

Secretary Note: The family is requesting a card shower for Ruby Buller's 90th birthday on August 18. You may mail your cards to Ruby at 626 Main, Halstead, KS 67056.

The offering today is for the Church Budget. Please place your offering in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary, place in James' church mailbox or continue to send to James Nightingale, 2819 N. Spring Lake, Burrton, KS 67020. The offering for August 23 is for the Scholarship Fund.

Offering deposited on 8/10/20: Church Budget (\$800.00); MC USA (\$100.00); WDC (\$685.00).

It's time for a Church Family Reunion! The Hospitality Ministry invites you to bring your own picnic and spread out on the lawn and in the park following worship on August 30. While we can't do a typical potluck at the moment, we would still like to provide an opportunity for fellowship with others in an outdoor setting. Bring a chair/blanket and your own lunch and drinks, as the church will not be providing anything. In case of rain, we will postpone it.

The time has come for the pastoral review that takes place every three years. The Vision team has been working with a Western District Conference consultant (Marv Zehr) to put together the survey questions. You can fill this form out online or a paper copy. The survey needs to be completed by August 24. The survey is a good opportunity to give Steve feedback on different areas of ministry taking place at FMC. Encouragement can be given as well as suggestions for areas of growth within the ministry at FMC. All responses will go to the WDC consultant who will be the only person to see individual responses. He will put those into a written report which will be available to the congregation this fall. Contact Jason Smoker (jasonls81@gmail.com) if you have questions about the evaluation or want more information about its purpose.

It's MCC School Kit Time! The Nurture Ministry invites you to prepare and share MCC school kits. A box is available outside of Stauffer Hall to collect the kits. Items needed for each kit were listed in last week's bulletin or you can find it at mcc.org.

Mental Health Spiritual Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be a one-day event on Monday, September 7. This retreat is for those affected by mental illness, including friends and family. Activities will be outside. We will follow social distancing and mask guidelines. Please bring a mask with you. Those interested in attending the retreat should contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290.

Preschool Story Hour at the Conference Resource Library returns this fall with VIRTUAL LIVE story hours full of stories, rhymes, and craft ideas on Tuesdays at 10:00am and Thursdays at 3:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be different, join us for one or both sessions each week. Story Hour will start Tuesday, September 8 and be geared toward ages 3-5. Story Hour will be led by Library Director Jennie Wintermote and will be shorter than our Summer Story Hour. Register at <https://forms.gle/vpk7DXRwwHAbSo5A7> and contact Jennie with any questions at crlib@mennowdc.org.

Collaborative storytelling project launched to capture 2020 through an Anabaptist lens: The creators of Anabaptist History Today (AHT), a new collaborative storytelling project, are calling on Anabaptists across the United States and Canada to share their experiences during the remarkable historical, biological and social events of 2020. For more information see the news release on the bulletin board or <https://aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/Welcome>.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Keep Duane and Pauline Regier in prayer as Duane is still recovering from a stroke. Praise God that there seems to be no loss of movement or speech. He is continuing to meet with doctors to find out why this happened and what can be done. Pray that they are able to find answers.
- Keep the children and teachers in prayer as the beginning of the school year approaches. This year contains many challenges with all the changes and restrictions. May our teachers find the strength to tackle new challenges and creativity to meet the needs of the children. May the children be able to learn and grow throughout the school year.
- Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregations in pastoral transition, as they discern God's direction for future leadership and priorities in the midst of the uncertainties of today's world.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Nemi Chigoji provides leadership for the Nigerian Anabaptist Resource Center, a Mennonite Mission Network partner. Pray for Rev. Chigoji as he works in California and Nigeria, training Anabaptist pastors in peacebuilding, mediation, and holistic ministry.