


CHRIST AMONG US, The Way of Mercy

Lent 4; March 10, 2024

Assisted listening devices are available at the sound desk at the back of the sanctuary. 

SILENT PRELUDE

As we continue on this Lenten journey, our faith calls us to walk as Christ did in the wilderness. Take a few moments to contemplate the image of wilderness and the path. Where do you find yourself on this path? Who is with you?

GATHERING

What Wondrous Love is This

Pam Eiten, Song Leader

VT #564

Welcome

Eric Larson

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: We may make careless choices
and lose our way.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God rescues us from our anxieties and fears.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God's word sets us free to walk
in newness of life.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: God gathers us in, from the east and the west,
from the north and the south.

**All: For God's unfailing love, we give thanks
to the Creator of all that is good.**

—Based on Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Opening Prayer

PRAISING

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

VT #156

Come, Ye Disconsolate

VT #643

CONFESSING

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, we forget that you are
the light of the world.

People: Forgive us for our short memories.

Leader: Remind us that you are rich in mercy

People: when we wander away from you.

Leader: Loving God, convict us of your immense love

People: that shines brightly on us.

**All: Merciful God, light of the world,
we come seeking new life in you.**

Words of Assurance

Music for Meditation

Esther Wetherill, Karin Edwards

La Cinqantiane (Gabriel-Marie)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Story

Alice Kabira

Scripture Reading

Carlen Sellers

Leader: Listen for the Word of the Lord.

People: Our ears are open.

Numbers 21: 4-9

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Richard Gehring
“Snake on a Stick”

Listening for the Spirit

Music for Reflection Aaron Wetherill, Karin Edwards
Theme from Symphony No 1 (Brahms, arr. Higgins)

Healer of Our Every Ill VT #644

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

Offering Prayer

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

People: hear our prayer.

Work of the Church

SENDING

Precious Lord, Take My Hand VT #610
Benediction

This Week's Activities

Today Nursery: Melissa Miller, Adriana Alvarez 10:00 AM
Nursery: Caroline Steelberg, Mary Harder 11:30 AM
Adult Christian Formation 11:30 AM
• Church History—Ancient to Anabaptism (sanctuary)

Serving Today:

- A/V Technicians: CJ Yoder, Spencer Yoder
- Greeter: Carmen Martinez • Coffee Host: Carlen Sellers
- Church Opening & Lockup: Lyle Bohnert, Vacant

Tue	Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom	7:00 PM
Wed	Women of the Word Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Ministry Team	7:00 PM
Thu	Menno Men	9:30 AM
	Pastoral Care	7:00 PM
Sat	Education Wing Design Team	9:30 AM
	Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale in Bloomington	6 AM-3 PM

Announcements

- We kick off a **new Christian Formation series** today covering church history through an Anabaptist lens, starting from the Gospels to the Radical Reformation and a bit beyond. Pastor Nathan will teach today's session on the social and political contexts in which the Gospels were written. All are welcome to join this class in the sanctuary.
- Thank you to all who participated in last week's Sunday school and discernment cafe. Your engagement and feedback have greatly contributed to the Discernment Planning Team's development of next steps. We have set the **dates for the next discernment times** and hope you will save these days for this important work. Each gathering will occur following a fellowship meal. Look for more details on both the meals and the meetings next week. The dates planned are: March 24, April 28, May 19, and (TBD) June 9.
- Multiply your giving this month by **applying for a Matching Grant!** Mission Commission invites LMCers to apply for a grant to match their giving up to \$2000 to a ministry or organization doing work that aligns with LMC's mission and vision. Applications are due by April 1. Please contact a Mission Commission member if you have any questions (Katrina B., Lindy S., Sharon E., Jamie or Rebecca H., Kristin C., Kelly W.).
- Next Sunday (March 17), Living Water Community Church (MC USA) and Mennonite Action Chicago will host **“Sing for Gaza, Sing for Peace”** from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Children are welcome!