

**January 20, 2008**  
**Strangers No More**  
**Immigration**  
**Gathering**

PRELUDE Jerry Toews

WELCOME Worship Leader, Carrie Sommerfeld

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Micah 4*

Leader: In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall  
be established as the highest of the mountains.

**People: Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come;**

Leader: From the East and the West, from the North and the South;  
ALL peoples shall come!

**People: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the  
house of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that  
we may walk in his paths.**

Leader: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**ALL: A word of justice and righteousness,  
and a blessing for all people! Amen.**

Praising God

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Come, ye that love the Lord"* No. 14

\*PRAYING FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

\*SINGING OUR PRAISE *"Cantemos al Señor"* No. 55

GREETING EACH OTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please pass the welcome pads*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC *"This little light of mine"* Sonbeams

CHILDREN'S STORY Maynard Knepp

Hearing God's Word

CONFESSING *Jeremiah 7:1-7*

SONG *"Spirit of the living God"* No. 349

HEARING THE SCRIPTURES *Deuteronomy 24:14-22, Ephesians 2:13-20*  
Leann Toews, Janna Duerksen

SERMON *"Aliens in the Church"* Corey Miller

Responding

SONG OF FAITH *"In Christ there is no East or West"* No. 306

LITANY

*“Bridges that Welcome”*

Insert

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

\*HYMN OF HOPE

*“For we are strangers no more”*

No. 322

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Today

Immigration issues have become a priority in the United States over the past several years, but as we watch politicians make promises, the church has too often been too quiet on this issue. The scriptures have strong words for those who don't care for aliens. Let us all be open to hearing God's word to us today. In Christ, we are strangers no more!

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today.

This morning you were greeted

by Rod & Ilona Abrahams and Barb & Keith Banman.

*Please take time to fill out our friendship pad.*

Come back & join us again soon.

Childcare is available during worship today.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday School for everyone. All college-age people are invited to Les and Cynthia Goerzen's home today right after the church service for devotions and visiting, followed by lunch.

On the table in the foyer are **PRAYER REQUEST CARDS**. You are invited to fill one out if you have a request and return it to a pastor's box.

## This Week

### **Tuesday, January 22**

**7:00 p.m.**—Worship/Fellowship Committee meeting in the library.

—Education Committee meeting in Associate Pastor study.

### **Wednesday, January 23**

**6:00 p.m.**—**WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES.**

**7:00 p.m.**—Historical Committee meeting in the Associate Pastor study.

### **Saturday, January 26**

**7:00 a.m.**—Men's Bible Study on Mark 10.

## Next Sunday, January 20

**NEXT SUNDAY** is *“World Fellowship Sunday”* and we will look with Mennonites around the world at the close connection between worship and service. The texts are John 3:16-21, Matthew 28:16-18; Mark 16:15; Psalm 27:1 and Corey will be preaching.

**10:45 a.m.**—Sunday School for everyone.

**Noon**— **FUNDRAISER MEAL** served by the Mennonite College Task Force.

**12:30 p.m.**—Make plans to attend the **TABOR ANNUAL MEETING**. Several items need our corporate vision, including the opportunity to enter into a relationship with a new church plant in North Houston, led by pastor Aurora Parchmont (Alberto's wife). Being in this relationship would require some financial commitment, but it would also need a small group of people committed to nurturing this relationship. So, if God is laying this ministry possibility on your heart, prayerfully think about it and come to the meeting to share what you may be feeling!

## Announcements

**Devotionals Watch!** Thank you so much to those who have offered devotionals. We now have 18! We need more and I suggested that February 1 was the cutoff date, so please, if you are planning on it, now is the time! Send any devotionals to: [cmiller@tabormennonite.org](mailto:cmiller@tabormennonite.org).

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are in your mailboxes today. Now is the time submit address changes and updates for the 2008 Tabor Church Directory. Please place in the secretary's mailbox, call 367-2318, or email [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org).

**COMPUTER PROBLEMS:** Karen's computer is down and she is unable to receive emails. For now, send emails to Kim: [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org) or email Karen at home: [dakajo@netzero.com](mailto:dakajo@netzero.com).

**GOESSEL/PEABODY/WALTON LUNCH BUNCH** has been changed to Tuesday, January 29. We will meet at noon at the AGAPE Senior Center, Goessel.

**INVITATION TO JOIN CANTATA:** Alexanderwohl Church has asked the adult choir to join them in a cantata *The Seven Last Words of Christ* for Good Friday directed by Ken Rodgers. Anyone who wishes to sing in this cantata is welcome to join our rehearsals on Wed. nights. Future rehearsal schedules will be printed in the bulletin.

**THE MENNONITE HERITAGE MUSEUM** will hold its annual meeting TODAY at 2pm in the Alexanderwohl Church fellowship hall. The agenda includes annual reports and a presentation by Brian Stucky on pioneer trails in Kansas. Faspa will follow.

**MDS:** Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service will be having their annual meeting TODAY at 2:30 p.m. at the Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren Church, Hillsboro. Kenneth Unruh and Paul Unruh will be speaking on "Reflections of the Greensburg Tornado".

**PEACE CONNECTIONS:** Join together to reflect on our past, look forward to the future, and celebrate 25 years of working for peace! Peace Connections 25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting, Thurs., Jan. 31, 6 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Newton. Barry Bartel, Bethel College President and former board member at Newton Area Peace Center, will be reflecting on the beginnings of Newton Area Peace Center and how that experience helped shape his current peace passion. Together we will also begin celebrating the Season of Nonviolence, which kicks off on Jan. 30. A soup supper begins at 6 pm. For information call 316-284-0000 or email [info@peaceconnections.org](mailto:info@peaceconnections.org)

**HESSTON COLLEGE EVENTS:** Monday, January 21, will commemorate the life and commitment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Both events will take place at Hesston Mennonite Church and are free and open to the public. An 11 a.m. chapel service will include small group discussions on King's life and legacy. A 7 p.m. community service will feature widely-acclaimed baritone Tony Brown, a Hesston College professor and peace ambassador, sharing in song and words how he promotes peace and reconciliation around the world. The service includes a reader's theatre performance, several selections by the college's Bel Canto Singers and others, and congregational singing. For more information, contact Hesston College professor Maria Day at 620-327-8328 or e-mail [mariad@hesston.edu](mailto:mariad@hesston.edu).

**JOHN MCCUTCHEON**, nationally acclaimed singer, songwriter and peace activist, will perform at Memorial Hall on the Bethel College campus, North Newton, Saturday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. This concert headlines KIPCOR's 35<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Lecture Series and is free and open to the public.

### ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS:

Mennonite Disaster Service Updates.

Manhattan Mennonite Church invites you for a GI Rights Training Workshop which will be held Feb. 2-3. See bulletin board for details.

Special invitation to Tabor from Peace Connections for their 25th Anniversary annual meeting on January 31.

## WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWS

**THE MUSICAL, UPSIDE DOWN KING**, is delighting audiences--young and old! See this new "rock and roots" retelling of the Gospel with script by Carol Duerksen and music by Doug and Jude Krehbiel. Plan now to attend one of the final three performances: Sunday, Jan. 20, Grace Hill/Whitewater, 6:30 p.m.; Grace/Enid, OK, 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 30, Hesston Mennonite/Hesston, 7:00 p.m. Freewill offerings for Western District Conference/South Central Conference youth ministry at each performance.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** The Western District Conference fiscal year ends January 31, 2008. In spite of generous donations in December, the annual budget still lags nearly \$50,000. Send your offering or contribution to WDC, Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117 soon. Also, see the web site for up-to-date information, photos, and giving options: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org).

**RESOURCE LIBRARY EXTENDS HOURS:** Remember, the Conference Resource Library at 2517 N. Main St., North Newton, is now open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights. On Jan 24, 7:00 p.m. library director Marlene Bogard will present a 20-minute topic on resources to use during Lent. Come to discover DVD's, devotional books, prayer practices and more.

**LIBRARY SLEEPOVER!** A Mother / Daughter Sleepover will be held at the Conference Resource Library on Friday, Feb.8, from 7:00 p.m. until Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:30 a.m. Minimum age of 5 years old, no more than two daughters per mom (or grandma). Cost: \$10 per person. Featuring storytelling, crafts, snacks, giggling, evening prayers, morning praise and breakfast. Space is limited - sign up by Jan. 31 by calling Marlene Bogard at 316-283-6300.

**NEW CAMP DIRECTOR NAMED:** The Western District Conference Executive Board has appointed Olivia Bartel, Kansas City, KS as Director of Camp Mennoscah beginning February 1, 2008. Olivia has been a camper, counselor, staff member and former interim director of Camp Mennoscah. She is a graduate of Bethel College and the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and a member of Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS. Please welcome Olivia to WDC and pray for this time of transition at Camp Mennoscah. (Check out the WDC website--[www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)-- to see new building photos and the 2008 camping schedule.)

**CAMP MENNOSCAH'S NEW DIRECTOR'S HOME** is progressing in spite of the weather! Thank you for the generous donations to Vision 2012 and the time of volunteers. The house is enclosed and windows have been placed.

Generators are being used for electricity but the hope is to have a line placed in the next two weeks. The plumber and electrician will begin work soon.

Roofing and siding materials are ready when weather permits and volunteers are available. Can you help? Can you supply meals for the workers? Call Galen Waltner, building committee chair: 620-345-2626 (work), 620-345-8598 (home), 620-386-0287 (cell); email: [galenwaltner@hotmail.com](mailto:galenwaltner@hotmail.com). Follow progress on Western District Conference website: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org).

## KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE:

>>FELLOWSHIP MEALS - You have two options this year. You can do what you have done in the past and either be a host or a guest at another church (the yellow forms were in your mailboxes) OR you can have your Fellowship Meal AT TABOR this year on Sunday, March 2 after the morning service. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for this option. A \$15 donation to MCC for adults and \$6 per child 6-12 yrs. of age is suggested. Children under 6 are free. PLEASE SIGNUP.

>>PLEASE consider donating money for pre-sale expenses. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Kansas MCC Sale. For those of you who have never donated to pre-sale expenses, PLEASE consider giving \$40 this year. Our pre-sale budget is about \$80,000. While this sounds staggering, it becomes very achievable when LOTS of Kansas Mennonites each give a little. Consider this motivational factor - the members of the Greensburg Mennonite Church have already given \$4500 to pre-sale expenses and they do not have a church building. Pre-sale expenses are things like: \$750 for raisins for those delicious new year's cookies, \$750 for ice cream to put on your home-made pie, \$2,000 for the hams in the ham gravy for the verenika, \$6000 for insurance which we can't eat, \$5000 for sausage, etc. PLEASE put your donations in Kris and Archie Schmidt or Jerry and Leann Toews' box. THANKS!

>>PLANTS & THINGS: Want a little green in your life? Grow a plant for the Relief Sale. You can start growing, repotting, and transplanting bulbs and flowers now. Remember to label all your plants. We would like more "things" such as planter boxes, iron work, stepping stones, pavers, bird baths, yard decor, etc.

>>WOODWORKING & METAL PROJECTS: We would like to encourage more woodworking and metal projects this year. Small projects such as tables, plant stands, display cases, sculptures, bookcases, etc. always sell well.

>>QUILTER'S CORNER: Clean out your quilt and linen closets for MCC. Quilters Corner is again requesting donations for quilt-related items. Last year's donations earned over \$12,000 for MCC. Items such as fabric, cloth sacks, tops, blocks, old quilts, liners, quilt supplies, patterns, and notions always sell well. A box for these items will be placed in the foyer later.

**Newsletter items are due on January 21.**

### **Peace, lived out in us.**

Just think: Your Jesus was a Jew, your alphabet is Roman, your democracy is Greek, your pizza is Italian, your cruise went to Jamaica, your croissant is French, your numerals are Arabic, your coffee came from Colombia, your car is Japanese, your tacos are Mexican, and you still say, "I don't like all them foreigners"? -Jan Gleysteen

### **Our commitment**

*(from Mennonite Church USA)*

We affirm individuals and churches that are already working against poverty and fear in immigrant communities. We affirm those who are speaking to the government about our nation's unjust immigration policies. We affirm the church's work with anti-racism, while we acknowledge that much more work remains. We also affirm the church's support of agencies that are addressing the roots of international inequality, which cause people to emigrate. However, we understand that because the U.S. controls more material resources than any other country, people will continue to immigrate here in search of economic and political stability. Because of our nation's abundance, because God has called us to welcome the sojourner, and because of the richness that immigrants bring to the Mennonite Church USA, we commit ourselves to action with and on behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

*We invite Mennonite Church USA congregations to consider the following actions:*

1. Build relationships with newcomers in our communities. Facilitate the mutual sharing of immigrants' stories and contributions in our churches and neighborhoods.
2. Plan congregational learning tours in our communities, including immigrant neighborhoods, churches, and workplaces, as well as government offices that serve immigrants.
3. Partner with immigrant congregations to plan church services or community events.
4. Offer church facilities and volunteers for documentation services, English classes, ethnic celebrations, or other outreach programs.
5. Engage in mutual aid to offer food, shelter, clothing, and other resources to undocumented and documented immigrants.
6. Learn about issues affecting immigrants by reading newspapers or

magazines, joining national immigration rights organizations, or contacting church agencies that work with immigration issues.

7. Join study tours to the U.S./Mexico border, refugee camps, or detention centers to learn more about U.S. immigration and refugee policies.
8. Advocate for just and humane policies for immigrants and refugees by contacting local, state, and national elected officials.

## **Bridges that Welcome**

Leader: What do these stones mean?

**All: These stones remind us that God led the Israelites from their native land, that Jesus had no place to lay his head, and that apostles and prophets throughout history have wandered far from their homes. These stones remind some of us of our own immigrant stories.**

Leader: We welcome the newcomers among us, even as our government alienates immigrants in the name of fighting terrorism. Even as migrants risk their lives to cross the desert and refugees flee their homes to seek asylum, we recognize that their homes might be safer were it not for our own nation's policies. We confess that our stones have too often built walls.

**All: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.**

Leader: We recognize the gifts of the immigrants among us:  
As executives, artists, and scientists whose work enriches our nation. As farm workers and day laborers whose hands harvest our food, often for unjust wages.  
As pastors and teachers whose spirits enliven the church.  
We offer our stones for the building of bridges.

**All: In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

Leader: What do these stones mean?

**All: These stones remind us that we can choose to build walls that divide or bridges that welcome. These stones remind us that today we have chosen to build bridges, to welcome the immigrants among us, and to become a lively dwelling for the Spirit of God.**