

Madison Mennonite Church
Koinonia Worship

January 10, 2021

GATHERING

Greet one another and add names to the liturgy of those who would like to lead, read, or facilitate. Each blank can be filled by a different person, and all ages are encouraged to participate in leadership! Help non-readers with their lines. Everyone reads the "Many" parts, unmuted for groups reading virtually. Re-mute afterward.

Prelude: Listen to and watch [this song](#) from Simon Weaver and Sarah Hartman-Keiser.

Call to Worship: Leader _____

Leader: Welcome, friends to this space of worship;
Many: Where we can listen and be heard;
Leader: Where we can pray and learn;
Many: And where God's love is stronger than our fear.

Lighting our Candles: Leader _____

Leader: Each week, we light a candle to symbolize Christ's presence with us and the unity we have with our beloved siblings at Madison Mennonite.

Light candles

Leader: Christ, our light, bless our fellowship with your Spirit's presence. We remember other MMC Koinonia Groups and pray that we are all united in love and peace. Amen.

HEARING the WORD: Reader _____ (Note: this person can also read "Pocket verse" after Reflection)

Reader: Matthew 28:20b
"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Guiding Reflection*: **Reader:** _____

In Ethiopia in the 1980s, it was forbidden to be in possession of a Bible. If a person was caught with a Bible, the Bible was burned and the person could be put into prison. Mennonites in Ethiopia hid their Bibles or ripped out single pages to fold up and put in their pockets. They also memorized passages that they could then recite when they were together with other Christians.

Since it was against the law for Christians to meet together in a church building, Mennonites started meeting together in homes in very small groups. Only five people were allowed in each group, and the meeting place changed often. Some people in the church prepared Bible study materials, and they were secretly passed to all of the groups.

When the church was first forced to go into hiding, there were about 5,000 Mennonites in Ethiopia. Ten years later, the government changed and laws against religious communities were lifted. When the Mennonite church counted its community members at that point, the number had grown to 50,000. The church had been growing, one small group at a time!

Tactile engagement: Create a "Pocket verse" [Scripture] Reader _____

Each person takes a moment to write today's scripture verse on a small piece of paper, assisting any individuals who need support. Then while the group listens to [this song recorded by Carissa](#), you may decorate the slip. Fold up the slip and tuck it into a pocket, purse, or even your sock or shoe! Perhaps you would like to carry this verse with you tomorrow, or throughout the week ahead.

Questions for Group Reflection: Facilitator _____

(The facilitator reads the questions aloud and invites response. At 25 minutes into your gathering, or when conversation has dwindled, the facilitator closes the time with prayer, below.)

Choose a couple of the following questions, focusing on whichever ones speak to the group and as time allows.

1. Have you ever been sad or afraid? Who helps you when you are worried about something? (Begin with asking the children in your group this before asking it of adults.)
2. How do you offer comfort to other people?
3. What have you noticed about the experience of worshipping from/in our homes?
4. What has been interesting, helpful, or encouraging about Zoom or Koinonia worship?

At the closing of this time of sharing, pray together:

Facilitator: Thank you, God, for people who comfort us when we are worried or sad. Amen.

RESPONDING in PRAYER and FELLOWSHIP

Sharing Joys and Concerns: Leader _____

The Leader invites each person (children included!) to share any joys or concerns they bring to the group. Remind your group that if anyone does not wish to share, they may simply say "pass." After all, including the Leader, have been invited to share, and if no one has something to add after a first round, join in a spirit of prayer (below).

Level 1B adaptation: If the group is 15 people or larger, invite people to type their name in the chat if they would like to share, as we do on All-Church Sundays. Call on people in that order. If the group is smaller than 15 people, follow the instructions above.

Praying Together

Leader: Holy God, we offer these prayers to you this day, trusting in your faithfulness.
We pray for ourselves, for our loved ones near and far. (a moment for silent prayer)
We pray for our community, our nation, and our world. (a moment for silent prayer)
Loving God,

Many: hear our prayers. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ: Leader _____

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Continued Fellowship (as time allows)



Koinonia Worship for Jan. 10, 2021 curated by Annali Smucker-Bryan and Lisa Weaver.

Resources used:

**Guiding reflection and questions are from:*

Let the Children Come to Me: Nurturing Anabaptist Faith Within Families

by Lisa Weaver and Elizabeth Miller

Cascadia Publishing House 2018

Unit 7: Steadfast Faith

Music video: Don't be afraid

Sing the Journey #105

Recorded by Simon Weaver and Sarah Hartman-Keiser (Dec 2020)

Audio of Hymn: Calm me, Lord

Sing the Story #45

Recorded by Carissa Christner (2019)

Announcements:

*A reminder to sign up for the Jigsaw Jubilee by January 15! See Joanne Juhnke's Retreat email for more information.

*CYCE is launching plans to keep our children connected to one another this spring through Letter-Writing Kits! Teens and adults are also welcome to join by sending letters to a child or two. Contact Sammy to participate!

*Next Sunday in All-Church Worship, we will be commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s faith-inspired leadership in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s.

This Week's Calendar:

Mon., Jan. 11 - Women's Group 7pm

Wed., Jan. 13 - Worship Planning

Committee 6:30pm

Mentors&Mentees 7pm

Care Call 8:15pm

Sun., Jan. 17 - All-Church Adult CE 4pm,

Worship 5pm, and Fellowship Time

For links to these virtual gatherings, please see the weekly e-calendar. To add an event, please email Erica Boehr.



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