

Madison Mennonite Church
Koinonia Worship

June 27, 2021

PRELUDE

At the beginning of your time together, the host may choose to cue [Nothing Is Lost On The Breath Of God](#), VT 653.

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.

Call to Worship: Leader _____

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

Leader: enter our silences.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

Leader: into the depths of our longing.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

Leader: unmask our pretending.

Enter our trusting,

enter our fearing,

enter our letting go,

enter our holding back.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,

Leader: embrace and free us.

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 _____

Reader: A reading from Matthew 6: 26 - 34

"Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren't you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow. They don't work; they don't spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown into the fire tomorrow, won't God do so much more for you -- you who have so little faith?"

"Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, 'What are we to eat,' or 'what are we to drink,' or 'what are we to wear?'" Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you

need. Seek first God's reign, and God's justice, and all these things will be given to you besides. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.

Optional tactile engagement: Invite all ages, but children especially, to consider and reflect on what they worry about. They may draw or write about this, gather things from their room, build something with Legos, etc.

Guiding Reflection: Reader: _____

We are transitioning to life beyond the pandemic. It is so wonderful to be planning for our coming together with our siblings at MMC. How do we reset our lives individually, as well as collectively?

Our call to worship entertains the idea of a variety of ways in which we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives. The Divine comes to us in silences - many have learned to sit in silent meditation as a source of strength in the past 15 months. God comes to us in our longing - we have felt our strong wish to be together to share in our joys and sorrows, to sing together. Now it appears this will be gradually happening!

How do we unmask our pretending? Masks have become a source of safety! Many are ready to shed them. Can we, after this unusual time, learn what being more real or authentic looks like? Brené Brown says "Mindfully practicing authenticity during our most soul-searching struggles is how we invite grace, joy, and gratitude into our lives"

We are now learning to trust in new ways. Our fearing was of benefit to our health during the pandemic; it gave us the wisdom to avoid certain behaviors which could put us at risk for infection from the coronavirus. We were forced to let go since we were so acutely aware of our vulnerability. We had no way of controlling this virus initially!

Some of us are still holding back, gradually learning to feel freer to be with people again, still occasionally worrying about this virus, and its ability to morph and mutate into more virulent strains! We are trying to come to terms with what is worrying and what is sensible for taking care of the health of our families. And we are, also, challenged to understand what Jesus is saying in this scripture. We still need to take responsibility for our need for food, clothing and shelter. We have to take care of our bodies and the health of our community. This has been a year when worrying was understandable.

The words of Richard Rohr speak to letting go and freedom: "All great spirituality teaches about letting go of what you don't need and who you are not. Then, when you can get little enough and naked enough and poor enough, you'll find that the little place where you really are is ironically more than enough and is all that you need. At that place, you will have nothing to prove to anybody and nothing to protect. That place is called freedom. It's the freedom of the children of God. Such people can connect with everybody. They don't feel the need to eliminate anybody. . ."



It continues to be true that our faith community is a source of hope and support. When we are feeling vulnerable, we are inspired by this community to make decisions which embrace and free us all in respectful and inclusive ways.

After this reading, cue "[His Eye is on the Sparrow](#)" for personal reflection.

Questions for Group Reflection: Facilitator _____

At its best, worship enables us to strengthen the connections we have to our faith community, to Creation, and to the Divine. Use this time to reflect together, using some or all of the questions below, or spend time in silence, or draft your own questions if that is best for your group today.

1. What causes you to worry? What helps you "reset" yourself and let go of that worry?
2. To what does this passage call you? What encouragement or challenge do you hear in it?
3. To what does the Matthew 6 passage call Madison Mennonite?

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

Facilitator: Loving Spirit, we give you thanks for this time of discovery in scripture and discernment with one another. May we continue to grow in wisdom and understanding as persons and as a church. 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).

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

Set Koinonia Groups are asked to have intentional conversation about their future. Practice grace with one another in this vulnerable conversation. Using the risk gradient image below, reflect together on the questions that follow. **Please note that the Working Group added a Level 5.**

1. As we think about the coming months, what does each household need and want regarding worship in Koinonia Groups? What risk mitigations are important for your household?



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- Is there resonance in your group around risk mitigations? If so, which level best describes your group?
- Is there dissonance in your group? If so, are you feeling led to disband at this time, freeing one another to participate in groups that more closely match where you're at?

Following conversation, please make sure to fill out the [KG form](#) no later than July 2.

	1	2	3	4	5
Format:	Virtual Only		←----- In-Person Groups -----→		
Size:	Unlimited	~15-20	~15-20	~15-20	~15-20
Recommended Risk Mitigations:	N/A - All virtual	Outdoors Masking Distancing No sharing food No singing	Outdoors Masking optional Distancing Sharing food No singing	Outdoors Masking optional Distancing Sharing food Singing (masked)	Indoors OR Outdoors Masking optional Distancing Sharing food Singing (masked)
Other:	As-needed option for members of in-person groups				

Koinonia Worship 6.27 curated by Marie Wiebe and Pastor Valerie.

Sources used:

Prelude "Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God" - VT 653 / Text & Music by: Colin Gibson
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Call to Worship - Voices Together #877

Bible reading from The Inclusive Bible.

Announcements:

*A reminder that Pastor Valerie is on vacation this week. She'll return to work on July 3.

This Week's Calendar:

Wed, June 30 - Care Call, 8:15pm

Sun, Jul 4 -
4:30pm Discovering Voices Together
5pm All-Church Worship



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