

Madison Mennonite Church
Koinonia Worship

August 8, 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.

Opening Song (optional)

If your group has discerned you are open to singing together, sing VT 57 - Holy Spirit, Come with Power (words included on page 4 of this liturgy.) Online groups may listen to [this recording](#) of the song.

Call to Worship: Leader _____

Voices Together 856

Leader: Christ is like a single body that has many parts.

All: It is still one body though every part is different.

Leader: Therefore the foot cannot say,

Higher voices: I am not part of the body;

Leader: Nor can the ear say,

Lower voices: I am not part of the body.

Leader: The eye cannot say to the hand,

Lower voices: I don't need you;

Leader: nor can the head say to the feet,

Higher voices: I don't need you.

Leader: If one part suffers,

All: all parts share the pain;

Leader: If one part is praised,

All: all parts share the joy.

Leader: Together, we are Christ's body:

All: each one of us is a part of it.

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 1 _____; **Reader 2** _____; **Reader 3** _____

Reader 1: A reading from Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-16.

I plead with you, then, in the name of our Redeemer, to lead a life worthy of your calling. Treat one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the peace that binds you together.

Reader 2: To some, the gift they were given is that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers. These gifts were given to equip fully the holy ones for the work of service, and to build up the body of Christ--until we all attain unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Only Begotten of God, until we become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Reader 3: Let us then be children no longer, tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine, or by human trickery or crafty, deceitful schemes. Rather, let us speak the truth in love, and grow to the full maturity of Christ, the head. Through Christ, the whole body grows. With the proper functioning of each member, firmly joined together by each supporting ligament, the body builds itself up in love.

Optional tactile engagement: **Leader:** _____

Together make the hand motions that accompany the version of "Here is the church" that reminds us that people, not a building, make the Church.

*Here is the church
Here is the steeple
Open the doors
See all the people.*

*You CAN have a church
Without any steeple.
But you can't have a church
Without any people.*



Guiding Reflection: **Reader:** _____

One principle that group facilitators often encourage in discussion is for participants to "make space and take space." Generally speaking, this guidance is meant to honor that each person in a group brings wisdom, experience, and particular gifts to the group, and offering those things requires *taking space*. The principle also asks each person to recognize the impossibility of everyone offering those experiences, gifts, and ideas all at the same time, and to step back and *make space* for others to share. In the dynamic dance of taking space and making space, a sort of communal equilibrium is attempted.

In the Ephesians passage, the author describes something akin to this principle in a church setting. In the first verses, the author seems to be encouraging the church members of Ephesus to make space for others, perhaps even to err heavily on the side of making space. In the middle verses, gifts are given in order that the body of Christ is built up--to give a gift, one must claim a certain confidence in being equipped, and then take space to offer it to the community. The intent of offering these gifts is not for individual advancement, but for the community's maturing in faith. In the final verses, we hear the oft-repeated phrase, "Let us speak the truth in love," which returns to the idea of taking space, and to use that space wisely and with great care.



Just like “bearing with one another in love,” making space and taking space is always a work in progress. It’s often messy and marked by our humanness. The practice keeps us accountable to our power and privilege, while also reminding us to share our gifts freely and to look for the gifts that others offer. We make space and take space so that we build the Church up in love.

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. *Begin by asking the youngest in the group:* How can we show our church family that we love them during the pandemic?
2. What has been your personal experience of taking and making space?
3. What gifts have you been equipped with that bring joy to you and life to the Church (MMC or obeyond)? When have you noticed the gifts others bring to the Church, and how have you experienced those gifts?
4. Discuss the tension between individual good and communal good. In what ways can they be mutually supportive? In what ways is Individualism at cross-purposes with the common good?

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

Facilitator: Divine Spirit, As members of this church body at Madison Mennonite, may we offer the gifts which make space for all members. As we take space, may we use that space wisely and with respect and kindness for our siblings in our faith community. Be with us as we continue in our discernment with one another. 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.

Closing Song (optional) and **Continued Fellowship**

If your group has discerned you are open to singing together, sing VT 386 - One Is the Body (page 4 of this liturgy.) Online Groups may listen to [this recording](#) of the song.



VT 57 - Holy Spirit, Come with Power

- 1: Holy Spirit, come with power, breathe into our aching night.
We expect you this glad hour, waiting for your strength and light.
We are fearful, we are ailing, we are weak and selfish too.
Break upon your congregation, give us vigor, life anew.

- 2: Holy Spirit, come with fire, burn us with your presence new.
Let us as one might choir sing our hymn of praise to you.
Burn away our wasted sadness and enflame us with your love.
Burst upon your congregation, give us gladness from above.

- 3: Holy Spirit, bring your message, burn and breath each word anew
Deep into our tired living till we strive your work to do.
Teach us love and trusting kindness, lend our hands to those who hurt.
Breath upon your congregation and inspire us with your Word.

Text: Anne Neufeld Rupp, 1970

Music: attr. B. F. White, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm Joan Fyock Norris, 1989

Text: based on Ephesians 4:4-13, John L. Bell (Scotland)
Music: John L. Bell
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Musical notation for the first system of the hymn. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "faith, and one call for all. bring to this earth new birth. chal - lenge, con - vert, and teach. deed, and through word to Christ our Lord."

Musical notation for the second system of the hymn. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Spir - it by whom we are led; one God and Meth - er, one Je - sus whose na - ture is love, who once de - scend - ed to proph - ets, to pas - tor or preach, some through the gos - pel, to bod - y might ev - er a - gain wit - ness through wor - ship, through"

Musical notation for the third system of the hymn. It features a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "1 One is the bod - y and one is the Head, one is the 2 Christ who as - cend - ed to heav - en a - bove is the same 3 Gifts have been giv - en well suit - ed to each, some to be 4 Called in - to ser - vice are worn - en and men so that this"

386 One Is the Body

PEACOCK 10.10.12

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Koinonia Worship for 8/8 curated by Pastor Valerie and Marie Wiebe.

Sources used:

Recording of *Holy Spirit, Come with Power* by Mark Ediger

Bible reading from the Inclusive Bible

Recording of *One Is the Body* by Kenneth Nafziger and the Journey Musicians

Announcements:

*Next Sunday, from 3:30-4:15, all are invited to gather on the grounds of MMC for a time of informal fellowship and singing. While we sing, we are asking all to wear masks and to distance. A signup sheet for the labyrinth will be sent as well.

*And a reminder that worship on August 15 will be via Zoom for all.

This Week's Calendar:

Mon., Aug 9 - Worship Planning 6:30pm

Women's Group 7pm

Tues., Aug 10 - Weeknight Anti-Racism

Cohort, 6:30pm

Wed., Aug 11 - NPWG 6:30pm

Sun., Aug 15 - Sunday Anti-Racism Cohort,
10am

Fellowship & Singing 3:30pm

Worship via Zoom 5pm,

and Online Fellowship Time

For links to these virtual gatherings, please see the weekly e-calendar. To add an event, please email deni@madison-mennonite.org.



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