



*Disciples of Jesus, Revealing His Kingdom
Through Love, Spiritual Growth,
and Service Together*

Watch Sunday's service live at 10:30 a.m.
at www.mgmennonite.org

Weekly Newsletter dated April 24, 2020

The logo for "From the Pastor" consists of a square graphic on the left divided into four quadrants of different colors (gold, teal, blue, and white). A white heart with a gold cross is centered in the top-left quadrant. To the right of the graphic, the words "FROM THE PASTOR" are written in a large, gold, serif font.

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Maple Grove Mennonite Church! Who would have ever imagined two months ago that our church building would have been empty for the past six weeks! This pandemic and the resulting efforts to be both safe and responsible by staying at home has disrupted some of the most basic rhythms of our lives. And yet, there are many around us carrying on with life just as before, doing essential services so that we all can have the basics covered. We all thank you.

As I experience the "stay at home" mandate, I find the two things that are the hardest for me, are the distance that I feel from both my biological family and my church families! The video connections are better than nothing, but hardly like being together, hearing voices, laughter, singing, shaking hands and giving hugs! This grandfather wants to hug my grandchildren!!! I do believe that day will come but until then it is a practice of patience.

In order to find a connection other than our video worship service, we are starting a weekly mailing that will give information and lyrics for songs in the weekly worship service, as well as information, updates, prayer requests from the congregation. If you have something you would like to have included next week, be sure to send it to Cindy by Wednesday noon and she will do her best to get it out to the congregation. Having the Wednesday deadline will allow her to finish the letter by Thursday morning, and mail it to those who do not get email by Saturday.

My prayer is that you are all staying healthy, helpful to others and attuned to what God has for us each to learn during these unprecedented times.

*In Christ,
Terry Shue*

Sunday's Service: *Everything is Connected***Genesis 1; Acts 17:28**

Chris Price is bringing the message on the connectedness of everything - from the simplest elements of creation to the human being sitting near us. This is something that the pandemic is shining a bright light on. The sermon will close with Chris reading the children's book "Everything is Connected."

Worship Leader: Jill Liechty**Song Leader:** Renee Koshmider

Opening Song – HWB #89 *For the Beauty of the Earth*
 Praise Songs – STJ #49 *Rain Down*
 – *Living Hope*
 Song of Response – *God Would You Forgive Us*
 Sending Song – HWB #614 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

*Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314
 HWB-Hymnal Worship Book (blue)
 STJ-Sing the Journey (green)*

Sunday's Scripture**Genesis 1 (NIV) The Beginning**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every

living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,
 in the image of God he created them;
 male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Acts 17:28 (NIV)

'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

✝ *Pray for Tom Lubbers who had surgery on Wednesday to remove his gall bladder.*

(To have a prayer request in the newsletter, please contact Cindy by Wednesday each week.)

OPENING SONG: For the Beauty of the Earth (Verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise



Verse 4

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Verse 5

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love

Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

PRAISE SONG: *Rain Down*

Chorus

Rain down, rain down,
Rain down Your love on Your people
Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love, God of life

Verse 1

Faithful and true is the word of our God
All of God's works are so worthy of trust
God's mercy falls on the just and the right
Full of God's love is the earth

Chorus

Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love on Your people
Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love, God of life

Verse 2

We who revere and find hope in our God
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing
God will protect us from darkness and death
God will not leave us to starve

Chorus

Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love on Your people
Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love, God of life

Verse 3

God of creation we long for Your truth
You are the water of life that we thirst
Grant that Your love and peace touch our hearts
All of our hope lies in You

Chorus

Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love on Your people
Rain down, rain down
Rain down Your love, God of life
(REPEAT)

PRAISE SONG: *Living Hope*

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope
(REPEAT)

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

RESPONSE SONG: *God Would You Forgive Us*

Verse 1

Imagine if we laid it down
These empty idols self-made crowns
Walked off the stage and lost our fame
Traded our slogans for You to have Your say

Verse 2

Imagine if we turned and prayed
Laid down our pride to seek Your face
And left behind our fear of man
Abandoned all these castles in the sand

Chorus

God would You forgive us, find us on our knees
Father come remind us what Your Church could be
Oceans of Your justice, mercy like a stream
Heaven spilling over flooding through our streets
God would You forgive us

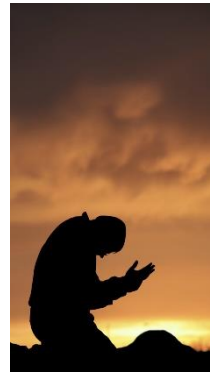
Verse 3

Imagine if no lines were drawn
If ev'ry race and tribe belonged
Imagine if we stood as one
To see each other as daughters and as sons

Chorus

God would You forgive us, find us on our knees
Father come remind us what Your Church could be
Oceans of Your justice, mercy like a stream
Heaven spilling over flooding through our streets
(REPEAT)

God would You forgive us
God would You forgive us



SENDING SONG: *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

Verse 1

In the bulb there is a flower
In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 2

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to You and me

From the past will come the future
What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

Verse 3

In our end is our beginning
In our time infinity
In our doubt there is believing
In our life eternity

In our death a resurrection
At the last a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see



To share a story or announcement in the newsletter, please contact Cindy by Wednesday each week.

Update from the Search Committee:



While Covid-19 and social distancing have caused some challenges, our committee has continued to move forward. Thanks to technology we have been able to continue to meet and even interview our candidate online. We are working to move this process along as much as possible during this time so that we can hit the ground running when restrictions are lifted.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Search Committee:
Paul Bontrager, Jen Geiser, Jill Liechty, Perry Miller and Scott Sommers.

For the latest newsletter from Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA, go to
<https://ohiomennoniteconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4-20-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>

Prayer Vine, a publication of Mennonite Mission Network, lists daily prayer requests for mission workers serving in locations around the world. The [May 2020 issue of Prayer Vine](#) is now available.

Shine curriculum for children from MennoMedia has you covered with FREE resources for families to use amid church closures. For free Sunday School resources go to
<https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>

Church Information: 2121 Smith Kramer St. NE, Hartville, OH 44632 Phone: 330-877-2400
Website: www.mgmennonite.org Facebook @MapleGroveMC

Terry Shue: Bridge Pastor

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary (Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org)

Ministry of Congregational Care Members: Dan Dutcher, Paul Bontrager, Marty Miller, Gary Sommers

Prayer Chain Contacts: Kami Sommers and Jen Geiser

Congregational Care Contacts: Harold Beachy, Dan Dutcher, Matthew Manchester
Dorothy Shrock, Clara Sommers, Rhoda Sommers