

CHARLESWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH

September 29, 2024

Sunday Seminar 9:30 am ~ Sunday School 9:45 am ~ Worship Service 10:45 am

Worship Leader: Julie Derksen

Speaker: Harry Huebner

Song Leader: Ann Koop Hunsberger

Children's Item: Justin Neufeld

Pianist: Caroline Klassen

Ushers: James & LeAnn Friesen

GATHERING

Prelude

Song: VT 62 *God Is Here among Us*

Welcome & Introductions

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 66)

Leader: Come and hear what God has done --

Community: God has listened to all our prayers.

Voice 1: When we pass through the torrent of deep troubles,
God turns the sea to dry land.

Voice 2: When we are tangled in the web of life,
God does not let our feet slip.

Voice 1: When we are tested as silver is tried,
God keeps us in the land of the living.

Voice 2: When we go through fire and water,
God brings us to a spacious place.

**Community: Come and hear what God has done –
God surrounds us with steadfast love.**

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Invocation

Song: VT 61 *You Are Holy, You Are Whole*

Children's Time and Children's Offering

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-13, 13:1-8

Sermon: "Leaving Egypt"

Song: VT 156 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

OFFERING OURSELVES IN RESPONSE

Prayer of Confession

God of fire,

You are a force beyond human understanding,
with the power

to sear through the veins of creation

with passion and vigour,

or to extinguish life in consuming flame.

Your presence is dangerous
for there is no predicting
where you might burn,
and yet comforting
for the light and warmth
offer an invitation to draw closer.

Redeeming God,
out of the flames of your creation,
your voice calls,
marking us as your own.
Yet there are times
when we choose to ignore your voice,
and listen instead to our own needs and desires
and those that challenge our faith
from within the world.
Forgive us for those times;
when we have ignored the needs of others;
when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;
when we allow the earthly voice to distract us from your call.

Silence

Loving Lord,
in your forgiveness
you offer again your invitation
to know your love,
to be loved,
and to respond to your call.
In hearing your voice
may we find our place
within your creation.
AMEN.

We hear the call to trust in God always,
But honestly, some days our stresses and doubts
are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive.
We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promises,
But belief like that is hard to come by.
We are often inclined to think,
"God helps those who help themselves,"
instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator.
When the world seems filled with dangers,
we can be quick to protect ourselves,
And we forget the wisdom of scripture,
which reminds us that we find traces of evil both
outside and inside of ourselves.

With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles,
and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.
Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings.

Silence

Though fear should beset us;
though danger cause us to close up our doors;
though troubles assail and lead us away from the ways of grace;
only one thing is necessary:
Just turn back to God's promise of grace.
Remember that God is reaching out with loving arms,
and let yourself be held.

Song

Sharing [livestream muted] & Prayer

Song: VT 794 *If the war goes on* (v. 1)

Silent Reflection on Offering

SENDING

Announcements

Sending Song

Dedication of Memory Garden, Part 1 (indoors)

Benediction

Dedication of Memory Garden, Part 2 (outdoors) (litany on back of insert)

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Dedication of Charleswood Mennonite Church's Memory Garden

September 29, 2024

Creator God, at the dawn of creation you placed your children in a garden
to find delight in their work and worship:

**Be present with us as we walk in this garden,
and open our eyes to the beauty of your creation.**

Jesus, our Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends
to a garden for quiet and refreshment:

**Be present with all who come to seek your company in this place,
and renew them in their stillness before you.**

Jesus, our Redeemer, you suffered anguish and betrayal in a garden,
and there you submitted to your Parent's will:

**Be present with all who come in sorrow and pain to this place,
and give them the grace of knowing your redeeming love.**

Jesus, our Saviour, after your crucifixion your body was laid in a tomb in
a garden, and there you first revealed yourself to your friends after you rose from
the dead:

**Be present with all who come to this place when all seems lost,
and awaken them to new life by your resurrection power.**

Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Friend,

**Be present with all who come to this place seeking direction and
strength. Fill their hearts with your love, and send
them out to embody your love and peace.**

We now dedicate this Memory Garden to the glory of God and the memory of all
whose lives are honoured here, in the name of Jesus, the Risen One.

May it be a quiet place for those who need rest;

a joyful place, delighting the senses;

a peaceful place, for those who remain here

and those who come to remember them.

In every season, may this garden welcome our neighbours

and draw us all to the goodness of our Saviour and Creator.

Amen.

We end with a responsive prayer of gratitude. The congregation responds after
each line with: ***We give you thanks.***