



Zion
Mennonite
Church

Office hours Tuesdays to Fridays
Worship happening everywhere

Pastor: Lois Bukar
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9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Vol. 63 May 3, 2020 No. 18

**Worship Leader Val W.
Songs chosen by Carla P.**

Prelude

Gathering Song SJ (green) #9 *Come, now is the time to worship*
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Come!

And Jesus said, "Come!"

To the light-hearted and the heavy-hearted: he said, "Come!"

To the well-off and the cast-off: he said, "Come!"

To the youngsters and the oldsters: he said, "Come!"

"Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle
and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-29)

Lord Jesus, let this time of worship

find us resting in you. c. Carol Penner www.leadinginworship.com.

Prayer

Praise Songs SS (purple) #113 *I will stand in the congregation*
HWB #355 *Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

Giving our Tithes & Offerings

Song HWB #578 *The Lord's my shepherd*

The Lord's Prayer

Song HWB #352 *Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us*

Scripture Readings Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25;

John 10:1-10; Exodus 3:10-15

- **Tromhan B., Colin R., JoAnn R., Dan R.**

Message When feeling sheepish is a good thing Lois Bukar

Song SJ (green) #106 *Just a closer walk with thee*

Benediction

Sending Song SS (purple) #39 *Will you come and follow me*

Postlude

Leadership Team meeting May 3 at 10 am.

Pray for:

- our shut-ins and those with ongoing health concerns and their caregivers
- those grieving the loss of loved ones
- our Leadership Team
- Swift Current: Bridgeway Community Church
- Mennonite Church Sask: Fiske Mennonite Church, pastors Margaret Ewen Peters and Gary Peters
- reduction of fears and panic surrounding the spread of the coronavirus, and perseverance in keeping safe and physically separated
- guidance and patience as we start into Phase 1 of re-opening the province on Monday

We are creating **weekly audio recordings**, they can be found on our church website. A **CD** will also be made of each of these and put in the **church library** to be borrowed.

Food donations may be dropped off in the box in the foyer.

Your **Offerings** may be dropped off at any time in the church mailbox (large brown box beside kitchen door) or in the offering plate beside the bulletins. For e-transfers the address is zion.pay@sasktel.net.

Monthly Financial report for March

Income in March - \$11,500

Budget monthly - \$13,300

Teri Z. also read scripture last week.

The **May calendar** will be available on table in foyer with the bulletins.

Videos:

1) Caleb and Kelsey Worship Medley Mashup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oHN1-ifsT8>

2) Caleb and Kelsey Worship Medley Mashup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4rzW9grCkk>

3) Anthem Lights - Great Is Thy Faithfulness:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US2SBfNCYWU>

Zion will have the **Sunday morning** service on CKSW at 11 am. **next Sunday May 10**, Mothers' Day. It will be a rebroadcast from a previous Mothers' Day service.

I am sure that most of you have heard that Greg passed away on April 25 after a determined battle with cancer. Greg was such a dynamic person and we are trying to deal with the gap he leaves in our lives. I read Isa 41:10 "So do not fear for I am with you". We would like to thank everyone for the gifts of food and flowers that we have experienced in the last few days. Many of you were sending food before he passed and that sustained us through our period of vigil. Brendan and Taylor are home, although Taylor is busy studying. I ask your prayers for him - that he may have a clear mind when he writes. He starts next Wed. for three days of exams which he writes at 5 am because of the time difference with Ireland. Kelsea, Alex and George remain in PEI because of Covid. We are in contact with them daily. Virtual hugs to you all.

Marcia

(on back of bulletin)

I Am, Because We Are

The fellowship of believers detailed in Acts sounds like the perfect relationship. Acts 2:44 tells us: "All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had." If we follow this biblical blueprint for how to be ideal Christians, we face high expectations. Often, we only see our church family at church. We are so busy with working different jobs and juggling social lives. Being together with our church family more than once or twice a week may be difficult, and sharing all our physical possessions seems impossible. So, how are we called to be a strong fellowship of believers despite all the challenges of modern life?

There is a South African philosophy known as *ubuntu*, which is often translated as "I am, because we are." It is best explained with the story of a social scientist who had been working in an African village. He obtained a basket of fruit and proposed a game with the children. He put the basket near a tree and asked them to race toward it. The person who reached it first would get all the fruit. To his amazement, they all joined hands and reached the basket at the same time, sharing it with one another. In explanation, they replied: "How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?" South African theologian Desmond Tutu described *ubuntu* this way: "When I dehumanize you, I inexorably dehumanize myself."

Perhaps our calling today is not to follow the example of Christian community found in the book of Acts so literally. Instead, we are called be family *in Christ* – brothers and sisters who love each other no matter what, and are united through empathy. Rather than live together and share every possession, we are called to be believers held together by a common spirit. In Christ, we seek to respect and understand one another.

Audriana Svay
Silver Lake, Indiana

When feeling sheepish is a good thing

Intro – don't strain a metaphor. We have the shepherd, a gatekeeper, the gate, exiting the fold; many things we could get distracted with. However, let's follow the crux of Jesus' story.

A. The Thieves make an Entrance

- Know that indeed there are thieves and bandits – John 10:1
- Recognition is in how they enter v.1, I John 4:1, Matt. 22:1-14
- They are strangers v.5, II Peter 2:1, Matt 7:15
- All before Jesus were thieves and bandits v.8
- Purpose and Intention is to steal, kill, destroy v. 10, I Peter 5:8, John 8:44

INTERMISSION Why would we be enticed by these? (some hindsight suggestions)

V. 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

- *I thought I knew better than others (pride)*
- *The 'thief' was so nice/convincing/great plans/harmless*
- *the other(Jesus) option is uncomfortable*
- *I had no idea – couldn't distinguish the voice*
- *I just didn't believe it*

B. Developing a Sheep's World-View – see also Psa. 1 JESUS SAID TO THEM – I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP, v 7, v.9 (Ex. 3:10-15)

- Shepherd comes through an opened gate v.2, Psalm 23
- Voice recognition is key v.3, 4,
- He knows our names v3, we are owned, we follow (freedom of movement), follow in his steps, I Peter 2:19-25
- Stranger danger: run v.5, don't listen v.8
- Benefit of the Sheep- be saved v.9, Gal. 3:27, freedom v.9, find pasture I Peter 2:24, life, abundantly! v9, 10

Conclusion: Let's learn to recognize the 'killers' in our lives, killing our joy, killing our peace, or the ways and choices which destroy life, abundant life. Jesus has nothing but good for us, He is the gate to salvation, freedom and life.