

Ruth 1:1-22 (NRSV)

Naomi and Ruth

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. ¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them, "Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.



FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ –
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday

October 31, 2021

“When Bad Things Happen... Be All In!”

GATHERING

Gathering Music		Shirley Baltzer
Welcome and Announcements		Aleen Ratzlaff
Prelude to Worship		Shirley Baltzer
*Call to Worship	VT 869	Aleen Ratzlaff
*Prayer		
*Hymn	What Is This Place	VT 22
The Psalm		Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Hymn

Praise God

VT 70

Time for Children

Jan Amstutz

SHARING

Sharing and Prayer
Hymn

On Silken, Soft Wings

Pastor Tom
VT 676

LISTENING

The Lesson
Sermon

When Bad Things Happen... Be All In!

Ruth 1:1-22
Pastor Tom

RESPONDING

Hymn
Sending
Postlude

Bless the Arms That Comfort

VT 527

Shirley Baltzer

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL *who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you watch this service!*

The Sunflower Performing Arts series will begin today, Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. with the first-ever Sunflower Soirée, a free concert of local and regional artists that kicks off the organization's annual patron drive. This event will feature the following artists: pianist Karen Schlabaugh; The Sunflower Trio; flautists Kristin Shaffer and Kenna Graber; guitarists Howard Glanton and Excier Rodriguez; soprano Holly Swartzendruber and pianist Karen Unruh; and musicians Ken Rodgers and Russell Adrian. More information on each performance can be found at sunflowerarts.org. All concerts will take place at Hesston Mennonite Church.

Mission Sunday is November 14! Bethany (Amstutz) Schrag will be sharing on her MCC Learning trip to Nepal with a meal to follow. Look for more information next week.

Thanks to the community's generosity, the youth collected 1,881 lbs. of food for the Main St. Ministries Food Bank during Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat. Thank you!!!

Fri., Nov. 5 – The Menno Simons Lecture Endowment, with support from the Reimer-Boese Worship and the Arts Endowment, brings Jan Kraybill to the Bethel College campus for two lectures on the theme "This is Our Story, This is Our Song: The Power of Music in Community." "The Sound of Science" is at **11 a.m. in Memorial Hall** as part of Bethel's student convocation series. "Music and Memory, Meaning and Mission" is at **7 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium** in Luyken Fine Arts

Center. *Bethel's current COVID-19 protocols require physical distancing and mask-wearing indoors with groups of 10 or more.*

Reception for Menno Simons lecturer Jan Kraybill and the “Voices Together” exhibit (in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College), **following Kraybill's lecture that begins at 7 p.m.**

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