

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ -  
Making Disciples through  
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

## The 4th Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022

### From exceptionalism to inclusion

*As we seek God's way, we move a sense that "we" and "ours" have special standing to the knowledge that all are equally part of God's kingdom.*

### GATHERING

Gathering Music

Will Friesen

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Sandy Hiebert

Prelude to Worship

Will Friesen

\*Call to Worship

Sandy Hiebert

*Together we seek the way of God,*

**Rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.**

*From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,*

**But through Jesus we learn that all share in God's inheritance.**

*Let us join God's feast,*

**Where all celebrate together.**

**Let us live out God's way of inclusion.**

\*Hymn

Could It Be That God Is Singing

VT 42

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55, adapted)

*Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.*

**We call upon you while you are near.**

*Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts  
and our ways are not your ways.*

**Forgive us for thinking we deserve special treatment. Lead us  
to radical inclusion.**

*As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way  
more clearly*

**and follow your way more faithfully.**

Prayer

*To the God who gathers us, we pray our lives, too, will become  
places of gathering, welcoming, and embracing those we thought*

*were far off. From our wandering and alienation, we have stumbled into loving arms. From our pride and self-righteousness, we have watched and resented as others stumble into loving arms. God, bring into clear focus our distancing and embracing, our rejecting and our welcoming. Weave together the strands within us—the prodigal son, the brother, and the father—to see your work of reconciliation in our church and community. Amen.*

Hymn	Beautiful Things	VT 551
Time for God's Children	Dimples the Dog and Luka the Llama	
	Joshua and Deryll	

### SHARING

Reception of Sue and DeVerne Buchholz into Membership		
Congregational Commitment		VT 932
Sharing and Prayer		Pastor Tom
Bringing our First Fruits		Will Friesen
Hymn of Dedication	We Plow the Fields and Scatter	VT 747

### LISTENING

Scripture		2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Message	New Creation!	Pastor Tom

### RESPONDING

Hymn	New Earth, Heavens New	VT 377
Benediction	Seeds	VT 777
Postlude		Will Friesen

**The Tabor College Choir**, under the direction of Dr. Greg Zielke, will present a program at FMC next Sunday as part of the morning worship service. Invite your friends!

**Next Tuesday, April 5, Mennonite Church USA** is hosting an informational webinar about the upcoming Special Delegate Assembly scheduled for May 27-30 in Kansas City. Let the FMC office know if you are interested in more information.

**Welcome to our new custodian – Donna Funk!**

**Join the MCC Thrifty 50 Challenge!** 50 years ago the first MCC thrift shop opened and now there are 85 shops that provide millions of dollars each year for MCC's work at home and around the world. To celebrate, we're inviting you to sign up for the [Thrifty 50 Challenge](#) to get one practical challenge sent to your inbox and have a chance to win a \$25 MCC Thrift gift card every week. Visit [thrift.mcc.org](http://thrift.mcc.org) to find a shop near you and learn more about MCC Thrift!

**Please continue to pray for peace and safety in Ukraine.** MCC is evaluating the situation and giving support to staff and partners as the situation allows. All international MCC staff have been evacuated from Ukraine.

### **Bethel College News:**

- **Sun., April 3 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program, John M. Janzen, “Drums or Organ: Contesting Musical Styles in African Christianity,” 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium.** This program is associated with the current special exhibit marking 125 years of Kauffman Museum, and Janzen will be talking about items included in the exhibit. ***Due to the impracticality of social distancing, face coverings will be required indoors regardless of vaccination status.***
- Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College, Susan and David Harmon, “Painterly Aesthetics: An Expressive Duet,” through April 7. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.