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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015

CHICAGO COMMUNITY
MENNONITE CHURCH

Chicago Community Mennonite Church

Sunday, August 16, 2015

Gathering

Prelude

Call to Worship

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.

Though tongue and pen falter, our hearts overflow.

We long to fill the skies with praise to God.

Then let us give thanks to God with all our hearts.

Let us tell of all God's wonderful deeds!

We will be glad and exult together.

We will sing praise to the Most High God!

HWB 25 *Jesus, stand among us*

Welcome

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Prayer for Peace

Transitions

This pitcher is a symbol of transition and self-discovery for our congregation. Today we celebrate the gifts our pastor, Megan Ramer, has brought to this church and many people beyond these walls. We are sending you, Megan, to Seattle with all our love and appreciation for your presence in our midst for the past decade. Just as water takes on many forms and gives life, we renew our commitment to one another and our service to the greater community.

May the water of eternal life sustain you and each of us with hope and joy.

Praising

HWB 336 *When peace, like a river*

Children's Time

Let the children come to me; let the children come.

Never hinder them; never stop them. O let the children come.

Psalms 147

STS 124 *My soul cries out*

Sharing

Prayer

Receiving God's Word

STJ 86 *Taste and see*

Mark 12:28-34

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,

thanks be to God.

Meditation

Responding

HWB 472 *I am the Bread of life*

Communion

Passing The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people greet each other in Christ's name.)

Christ's Invitation and Our Response

What do we bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread, made by many people's work,
from a world where some have plenty and most go hungry.**

At this table, all are fed, and no one turned away.

Thanks be to God!

What do we bring to Christ's table?

**We bring the fruit of the vine, crushed from many grapes,
from a crushed and broken world
which cries for peace and justice.**

At this table, all share the cup of pain and joy of salvation.

Thanks be to God!

What do we bring to Christ's table?

**We bring joys and concerns,
from our hectic everyday world of love and labor.**

At this table all are heard and held in prayer.

Thanks be to God!

What do we bring to Christ's table?

**We bring our gifts and offerings,
returning to God the first fruits of our labors.**

At this table, we share what we have with those who have need.

Thanks be to God!

(Bring offerings forward. Return and remain standing.)

The Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts!

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

**It is right, and always right, with heart and mind and strength
to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank and praise you, Source of all life, Lover of Creation,
whose Wisdom gave birth to all things and cradled the earth.

We thank you that we are not our own,
but are woven in the web of living things.

**You have created us, and called us in this life to be one with you
and to be your people here on earth. You fill us with worth,
call us to account, and promise us life eternal.**

Therefore with all your people, past, present, and to come,
and all the company of heaven, we praise your name,
singing in joy and wonder (HWB 121):

**Holy God, we praise thy name. Lord of all, we bow before thee.
All on earth thy scepter claim; all in heav'n above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain, everlasting is thy reign.**
(Please be seated.)

We thank you for Jesus, your Anointed One,
born of a woman, Word made flesh,
in whom is fully revealed your goodness and love.

**We thank you for Christ, the Great Example and Redeemer,
who shows what human life is meant to be,
and reaches out to all of us
in costly, unexpected, life-giving love.**

**We remember his life among us, his death on the cross,
and his resurrection in glory.**

We remember that on the night when he was betrayed,
to be crucified by unjust powers,
he had a meal with his disciples.

He took bread and a cup from the meal-table and said:

"This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

"This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**Doing this, he showed us that his life would be poured out,
and that through his suffering and death,
God would release new energies of life,
love, justice, and peace for all earth's people.**

Living God, by the presence of the Holy Spirit,
give us your life and love in Christ
as we share this bread and cup.

**May your Spirit bring unity and peace
to all living things, and all earth's people.**

As we partake of Christ's saving death and rejoice in the resurrection,
**So we wait in hope for the wedding feast of the Lamb
and sing of new creation.**

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God of our hope, send your Spirit upon this congregation,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world
as we await the day of his coming.

In hope, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Consecration

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Invitation to Receive Communion

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord...

Let us partake.

(Come forward to receive the bread and dip it in the cup.)

Let us pray:

Most glorious God, generous in love, we praise you for this supper, and all you give and promise us here.

Now we give ourselves to you and to each other.

May this Sunday morning be a new beginning in worship, prayer, and the living out of your gospel here, and in all the world, through Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit – one God – be glory and honor, now and forevermore. Amen.

Sending

Holy One of Blessing

Karena Mendoza

Litany of Sending

Along with Sarah and Abraham, Ruth and Naomi, Paul and Barnabas, we are sojourners, situated in a given place for only a season.

We are always being drawn near and led forth by the Holy Spirit.

As sisters and brothers, siblings and kin in Chicago Community Mennonite Church, today we give thanks, Megan, for your 10-year ministry among us. We say farewell to you and we bless the journey ahead – for you and for this congregation.

We have laughed and cried, worshiped and prayed together. Together we have hoped, dreamed, sung and worked. Parting is bittersweet as memories flood our minds and hearts.

We have shared worship and work, happy and sad occasions, committee meetings and projects. We blessed new marriages, grieved losses, dedicated babies and their parents and gifted young people with quilts and our love. We met in funeral homes, at the hospital, at the beach, in coffee shops, and in homes. We have been blessed by God together.

We bring to this day many feelings: sadness, joy, anticipation, loss, satisfaction. Farewells are difficult, but we have accomplished much during these years together, and we give God thanks for you and your ministry.

I leave the role of being your pastor, carrying with me cherished memories of our times together. You have shaped my faith, ministered to me, and helped me see and seek God's presence in my life and in the community. Thank you for your care, your creativity, your encouragement, and your hope.

In saying good-bye to you, Megan, we release you from responsibilities as pastor of Chicago Community Mennonite Church. Congregation, will you join me in this release?

God has blessed us richly through your ministry. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life journey. With God's help, we release you, Megan, from your responsibilities as our pastor.

As a symbol of this release, I give to you, Jason, the church keys. I pray this congregation will continue to live out God's vision, sensitive to where God's Spirit wishes to lead.

With God's help, we will continue to live out God's vision for us.

As we release Megan from ministry in our congregation, we also ask God's blessing on her future ministry.

We offer support and encouragement to you, Megan, as your ministry unfolds in Seattle. We pray God's blessings on you and on us as we begin a new relationship with each other, in which you are no longer our pastor.

Now we ask you, Megan: do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide pastoral care and support?

With the help of God, I do. I accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are a part of the unfolding of God in our midst. When we meet in the future, I will be your friend but not your pastor. I will no longer perform pastoral duties among you. I bless you to build trust with your new pastor.

As a symbol of our blessing and our gratitude for all you have given and taught us during your time among us, Megan, we give you this gift.

As a symbol of my hope for God's blessing on each person's spiritual journey and on Chicago Community Mennonite Church in your continued ministry, I give you this gift.

May God bless and guide you, Megan, on the next steps of your journey. May God bless and guide you as you leave Chicago Community Mennonite Church and form relationships in Seattle Mennonite Church. May God bless and guide this congregation as we continue kingdom work and seek additional, new leadership.

To God's gracious care we commit you. May God bless and keep you; may the very face of God shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the God's presence embrace you and give you peace both now and forever. Amen.

STJ 44 *The love of God*

Announcements

Benediction

Extinguishing the Peace Lamp

Now the light of Christ is in you.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Jan Lugibihl

Meditation: Megan Ramer

Song Leader: Philip Kendall

Pianist: Antonia Kam

Altar: Jody Schmidt

Fellowship

Immediately following worship, please come to the front of the sanctuary for a photo. Afterwards, join us in the garden north of the church for a time of fellowship.

Chicago Community Mennonite Church

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