



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday in the Season of Epiphany

A Service of the Word



*Jesus Unrolls the Book in
the Synagogue,
James Tissot, 1896 color
lithograph*

Join the service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning:

Zoom link: or call in: Dial 253 215 8782, then enter Meeting ID: 283 224 109#

Or join us via our audio stream: [Spreaker](#)

Welcome to the worship service today.

We hope it is meaningful for you and welcome you to join us again.

As a Christian community, called by Jesus to be inclusive, caring, and peace-minded, we affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, or life situation are welcome to be in full participation in our congregation and in our denomination, MC USA.

Boulder Mennonite Church acknowledges that we are gathering on the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples. It was inhabited by the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Ochethi Sakowin Peoples. We affirm that settlers have specific responsibilities in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

From Nehemiah 8.1-10

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their various towns, all the people came together in the broad expanse before the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses which God had given to Israel.

On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the scribe brought out the Book of the Law before all the assembled people, women and men, and children old enough to understand the reading. Ezra read the book aloud from early morning till noon while facing the broad expanse before the Water Gate, in the presence of the women and men and children. All listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra, standing on a raised, wooden platform made for the purpose, opened the book in the presence of all the people. When he opened the book, everyone stood up.

When Ezra blessed the Most High, the great God, all the people raised their hands with the response, "Amen, Amen"; then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Eternal One lying face down on the ground. The Levites instructed the people in the Law as the assembled stood there. Reading from the Book of the Law, they interpreted it and gave it meaning so that the people understood it.

Then Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe, along with the Levites, instructed the people, saying to all of them, "This day is holy to the Most High, your God. Do not mourn. Do not weep" – for the people all had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah continued, "Go now and enjoy rich food and sweet wine, and be certain that you send a share to those who cannot provide for themselves, for this day is holy to the Eternal. Let no one be sad, for God's joy is your strength."

Gospel Reading

Luke 4.14-21

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise.

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "**The Spirit of our God is upon me: because the Most High has anointed me to bring Good News to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind, and release to those in prison – to proclaim the year of our God's favor.**"

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "**Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled.**"

Singing

O God, our refuge

434

Message

Truth is Stranger Than Fishing

RESPONDING

Singing The church of Christ cannot be bound 392

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

In Your mercy.... [Respond:] **God, hear our prayer.**

SENDING

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** Move in our midst 827



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Cover art: [Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue, Illustration for 'La Vie de notre Seigneur Jesus-Christ', Published in Tours 1896](#)



About our Guest Speaker: We welcome Barry Bartel as our guest speaker this morning. Barry and his wife Brenda are members of Glennon Heights Mennonite Church. Barry is a bilingual immigration attorney in Denver and offers consulting services through Bartel Solutions LLC at <https://www.bartelsolutionsllc.com/>. He is a member of the Mountain States Mennonite Conference's Ministerial Council.

Welcome, Barry. Thank you for blessing us today!

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Barry Bartel
Worship Leader:	Cheri Krause
Readers:	Jen Dudenhefer, Douglas Minter
Music:	Justin Mathis, Judy Classen, Susan Graber, Tom Jirak
Tech Support:	Steve Voran, Elleanna Voran
Greeters:	Ezra & Joan Tice
Snacks:	Elvira Glenn, Sandi Sanborn, Gus Gouvas
Moment for All Ages:	Judy Classen

January 19, 2025: Attendance: 32 live, 10 online Offering: \$

TODAY at BMC

- 9:30a Worship and mingling
11:00a Education Hour: Joint Adult/Youth in the sanctuary: “BMC and Church: the Future of Anabaptism”
4:00p Heresy, Heretics, and (dis)Harmony, **Freedom Street Social**, 15177 Candelas Pkwy, Arvada (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE)

THIS WEEK at BMC

- 1/29 Deacon’s meeting, 8:30am

NEXT SUNDAY – Feb 2, 2025: 4th Sunday in the Season of Epiphany

- 9:30am Worship and mingling
11:00am Education Hour: Adults in the sanctuary: “BMC and Church: the Future of Anabaptism” Youth Gathering in Room 112

COMING UP

- 2/1 Everence Workshop, 1st Mennonite, Denver
2/13 Singing small group, 6:30p
2/13 Introverts informal small group, 1p
2/15 MSMC Faith & Life Forum, 9:30pm, 1st Mennonite, Denver
2/14-16 [Sr. High Snow Camp](#) at RMMC
3/7-9 Womens Retreat at RMMC
3/9 First Sunday of Lent
3/29 Justin Mathis Clarinet Recital at BMC, 7:00
7/8-12 MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC
8/1-3 Assembly weekend with Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Glennwood Spgs

~PRAYERS~

- ~for **Vernon King**, a friend of **Paul** and **Judy Classen**, who lives in Goshen, IN and was recently diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.
~for the **Palestinian people** in the West Bank, and for the ceasefire agreement with Israel for Gaza.
~for **people who are affected by the presidential orders** this week and living with fear and anxiety.

February Birthdays

2 – Michellene Fast
8 – Wayne Morrison

12 - Joel Sawatzky
12 - Katharina Sawatzky

Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 7:00am.

DEACONS: Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712; Toni Diaz Bachus: 303-579-4290

PASTOR RANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: Thursday: 8am to 2pm. Friday: 9am to noon (subject to visitation/meetings). Appointments/call-aheads are encouraged. Pastor Randy normally takes Monday as a Sabbath.

CHURCH ADMINSTRATOR: No office hours at this time. Please call the church office or email churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org for inquiries and to leave messages.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

SUPPORT THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP: If you shop at King Soopers, you can support our church's budget at no additional cost to you! BMC receives a quarterly check for a percentage of your King Sooper purchases when you connect your KS rewards card. It's easy to sign up! Login to the King Soopers website, go to the Account page, then Community Rewards, click on Enroll, and then search for Boulder Mennonite Church. Or, from the app, go to Rewards from the menu, choose Community Rewards, and then search for Boulder Mennonite Church.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

EVERENCE WORKSHOP, Matters of Life and Death: What are you waiting for?: We tend to avoid conversations related to end-of-life planning, estate planning, and all that comes with it. Or wait far too long to start these conversations. End-of-life is an unknown for all of us, so adults of all ages are encouraged to attend a free, half-day workshop at First Mennonite Church of Denver, Saturday, 2/1, from 1:00 – 5:00pm. Topics will include spiritual, financial and health matters led by presenters from First Mennonite, Everence Financial and The Conversation Project. Please RSVP to churches@everence.com by **Monday, January 27**.

FAITH & LIFE FORUM: *Learning to Hope in the Dark: Practices of Faith for Uncertain Times* Sat, 2/15, 9:30-2:30 at First Mennonite in Denver. Shannon Dycus is our featured speaker. Sponsored by Mountain States Mennonite Conference. **Now is the time to [register](#).** We're hoping for a good in-person turnout, but for those who can't make it, you can register to listen to the morning keynote virtually (the afternoon workshops only for in-person attendees).

FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP:

- **Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 31-Feb. 2** - Create paper or digital photo books and sharing ideas and conversation with other scrappers! You still have time to register and spend the weekend documenting life memories and fellowshiping with others. Register at rmmc.org!
- **Snow Camp is coming!** It's not too late for your Sr High youth to come and be part of a fun and meaningful weekend, **Feb. 14-16**. Regardless of when you register, you'll get the "Best" weekend price, so don't let \$\$ be a barrier to attendance. Please call with any questions (719-687-9506) and we hope to see you here at snow camp! Check-out this promo for Snow Camp: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DBxIzCwNnqU/>
- Save the date! **Women's Retreat is coming March 7-9**. Input for the weekend will be provided by Mariah Martin, pastor and Host of the Called to be Bad podcast. More details to follow!

CHURCH JOB AVAILABLE: First Mennonite Church of Denver is seeking a One-year Transitional Office Administrator. The position requires 20-25 hrs/wk to manage the daily administrative responsibilities in our office. Primary responsibilities include preparation of the Sunday worship bulletin and PowerPoint; regular communications with the congregation; and supporting the church staff (Interim Pastor, Facilities Manager, Spiritual Formation Director, Direct Assistance Coordinator). More details [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Hope for the Future Conference: Registration is open for MC USA's [Hope for the Future conference](#), Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2025, at Goshen (Indiana) College. This year's unique event will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Damascus Road Anti-racism Process and its pivotal role in the Anabaptist commitment to justice and reconciliation.

Webinar on sanctuary: What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people? This webinar on Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m. MT, will feature several pastors whose congregations have previously served as sanctuaries. Lawyers from the Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection will discuss the legal issues related to sanctuary, specifically focusing on section 1324, and will allow time for participants to ask questions. For churches that are currently working with or are interested in supporting undocumented individuals in their communities, this webinar will provide crucial information on what to expect and what legal assistance is available if your church faces challenges from ICE or immigration agents. [Register here](#)

MennoCon 25! Registration for MC USA's **Follow Jesus '25** convention is open for early-bird pricing. The denomination's biennial faith formation gathering will take place at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. [Learn more here](#). [Register here!](#)

We can learn from our history: Enjoy this exclusive glimpse into the inspiring work of the MC USA Archives. Watch the video here: mennoniteusa.org/welcome-to-archives-video

A timely blog on immigration: In this Follow Jesus-inspired [Epiphany blog](#), Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for ministerial leadership for MC USA, shares about an anti-immigration flier that was left around her neighborhood and how it reminded her that Jesus, like many of our ancestors, was an immigrant, who fled danger and persecution.

California wildfires: Among the many affected by the wildfires are Pasadena Mennonite Church and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference's Full Circle Thrift Store. To learn more about Mennonite Disaster Service's response to the wildfires, read "Connections and caring: Response to California fires" by Jesse Shoots [here](#).

Let this song be our prayer: From Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler, Climate Justice Coordinator: In this inaugural week as climate policies are reversed or challenged, may this beautiful [Peace Prayer](#) song by Pastor Susan Gascho-Cooke of Community Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, be our prayer:

oh hold, hold your arms around this tilting planet
hold, hold your arms around the wounds of this world
hold, hold your arms around your people, all of us,
hold, hold your arms around the world

ECOLOGY TIP: If you wish to contact businesses which produce items at great environmental cost or package them heavily, it is a simple matter of looking up that company, finding "Contact us" and then writing them an email. If you want to make even more of an impact, copy down the address and write them a real letter. It may seem to us that one person can't make a difference, but if they hear the same polite plea from a number of people, they often pay attention. In writing letters to Congress, they used to say each letter represents at least 100 people who feel the same way!



Donate to BMC



Boulder Mennonite Church
is a member congregation of Mountain States
Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA
and in affiliation with the Church of the Brethren

3910 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80305
(303) 443-3889 • www.bouldermennonite.org • churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org