The 4th Sunday in Eastertide

“I am the gate.” ~Jesus. Image: Sheepfold, or sheep pen with gate and thatched roof. Province of Sassari Sardinia, Italy

Join the service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning:
for Zoom video live, click here: Zoom, or call in:
Dial 253 215 8782, then enter Meeting ID: 283 224 109#
Or
To join us via audio stream (if possible), click here: Spreaker
Boulder Mennonite Church is a vibrant, Christ-centered community welcoming all people to know God and to be ambassadors of God’s love, healing, and peace.

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

Gavotte

J.S. Bach

Singing

Come, let us all unite to sing

Text: anonymous, 1876; Music: Edmund Lorenz, 1886 God IS LOVE

1. Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love! Let heav’n and earth their praises bring,
2. How happy is our portion here, God is love! God’s promises our spirits cheer,

and sing with us for Jesus’ sake, for God is love. God is love!

God will be with us all the way, our God is love. God is love!

God is love!
Call to Worship
Leader: For our community gathered here,
   for the spirit that called us together and drew us to this place:
All:  *Let us give thanks.*

Leader: For moments we have shared with others;
   for times when we have reached out across barriers of distance and fear;
   for times when others have reached out to us:
All:  *Let us again give thanks.*

Leader: For our weaving together out of many separate selves
   this hour of celebration and reflection:
All:  *We give thanks this day. Let us celebrate the diversity and richness of life
   in the presence of God!*

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing  Savior, like a shepherd lead us
Text: attr. to Dorothy Thrupp; Music: William Bradbury, BRADBURY
Centering Prayer with Psalm 23

All: The spirit of Peace shepherds me, I shall not want;
I'm brought to green pastures and led beside still waters;
Peace restores my soul.
I'm led in the path of goodness to follow God's way.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I'm not afraid; For Peace is ever with me; her rod and staff guide me,
giving me strength and comfort.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of all my fears;
you bless me with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the heart of God's Love forever.
Passing the Peace

Offering Invitation/Blessing

Please type your prayer requests into the “Chat” column on Zoom or send them via email prior to the worship service.

Offertory

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

New Testament Reading  

Acts 2.42-47

[The early Jesus community] devoted themselves to the apostles’ instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverence and awe overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles.

Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need.

They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts, they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people.

Day by day, God added to their number those who were being liberated from oppression and healed.

Gospel Reading  

John 10.1-10

Jesus said: “The truth of the matter is, whoever doesn’t enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep, the one for whom the keeper opens the gate. The sheep know the shepherd’s voice; the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out.

Having led them all out of the pen, the shepherd walks in front of them and they follow because they recognize the shepherd’s voice. They simply won’t follow strangers—they’ll flee from them because they don’t recognize the voice of strangers.”

Even though Jesus used this metaphor with them, they didn’t grasp what he was trying to tell them. He therefore said to them again: “The truth of the matter is, I am the sheep gate. All who came before me were thieves and marauders whom the sheep didn’t heed.
I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe—you’ll go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy. I came that you might have real life and have it to the full.

**Singing**

Alleluia  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979

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**Message**

Recognizing the shepherd’s voice

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**RESPONDING**

**Singing**

O Christ, the Great Foundation  
Text: Timothy Tingfang Lew, 1933, trans. Frank Price, alt. RLS; Music: Samuel Wesley, 1864 AURELIA

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**Sharing Joys and Concerns**
Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Sending Song

Move in our midst

Hymnal 418

Text: Keneth Morse, 1942; Music: Perry Huffaker, 1950 PINE GLEN

1. Move in our midst, thou Spirit of God. Go with us down from thy holy hill.
2. Kindle our hearts to burn with thy flame. Raise up thy banners high in this hour.

Walk with us through the storm and the calm. Spirit of God, go thou with us still.
Stir us to build new worlds in thy name. Spirit of God, O send us thy pow'r!

Resources used in worship:
Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality
Move in our midst, © 1950 Church of the Brethren General Board

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader: Toni McClain
Readers: Ellen & Wayne Morrison
Music: Pastor Randy, Elleanna Voran, Susan Graber
A Moment for All Ages: Elvira Glenn
Tech Support: Steve Voran
Virtual Attendees: Everyone!
April 26, 2020                  Attendance: appx. 70          Offering: $850.00 (Thank you!)

TODAY at BMC
9:30am        Worship
Virtual Mingling following the service

THIS WEEK at BMC  Wednesday:
Midweek Check-in on Zoom, 5pm (NOTE NEW TIME). Click here to join the meeting: Zoom Midweek Check-in. Or to join by phone, dial 301-715-8592. Meeting ID: 283 224 109#

Tuesday        Deacons Meeting
Thursday       Council meeting via Zoom at 6:30

NEXT SUNDAY – May 10
9:30am        Worship, virtually via Zoom or Spreaker

COMING UP (all things considered)

~PRAYERS ~

~Sad news and a pray request from Nancy Wolff: My brother-in-law, Mike, has a cousin who died from COVID-19. Her name is Anna. Anna’s son, Trevor, also died from the virus. Please pray for strength and comfort for Anna’s husband, Dale, and for the entire Ziebarth and Lopez family.

~From Terry & Eldon Mast: Prayers for all graduates as they experience this significant milestone in a different way than expected.

~From Jill Minter: Good news. My mother and others at her nursing home tested negative for Covid-19. We are so thankful. My mom is doing well and getting better.

~Prayers for Karl Ortman, former BMCer, whose 95-year-old mother died on Thursday in Freeman, SD. A private interment service is planned now with a celebration of life service at a later time.

~From MaryPat Kyer and Michael Ek: prayers for Michael's pregnant daughter, Laura, and for her family. The baby needs to "come out and get more nutrients," and so Laura will be induced on Monday. Birth in the time of COVID requires lots of extra prayers, and we thank everyone for their own powerful prayers.

~Casa de Paz: Prayers of thanks for all the volunteers who walk alongside our immigrant friends taking their first step into freedom.
~Christian Peacemaker Team:~ Pray that the Palestinians of the Old City in Al Khalil/Hebron might find comfort during this holy month of Ramadan.

~Mennonite Early Childhood Network:~ As we approach Mother/s Day, prayers of thanks for all those who extend unconditional love to children.

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 9:00am.


PASTOR RANDY’S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8am to 2pm. Friday: 9am to noon (subject to visitation/meetings). Appointments/call-ahead are encouraged. Pastor Randy normally takes Monday as a Sabbath. During the pandemic, he is reachable on Mondays as well.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR is working from home – no office hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY BIRTHDAYS</th>
<th>MAY ANNIVERSARIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 ~ Jonathan Falk</td>
<td>12 ~ Hannah Dudenhefer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ~ Erin Dudenhefer</td>
<td>12 ~ Kelcie Dudenhefer</td>
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<td>7 ~ Sandi Sanborn</td>
<td>13 ~ Gretchen Williams</td>
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<td>10 ~ Gwen Grasse</td>
<td>20 ~ Linda Hardesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ~ Cindy Reeves-Janzen</td>
<td>22 ~ Cheri Krause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ~ Olive Loewer</td>
<td>24 ~ Eldon Mast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ~ Douglas Minter</td>
<td>28 ~ Betty Jantzen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 ~ Dan Jantzen</td>
<td>1 ~ Susan Graber &amp; Tom Jiral</td>
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<td>26 ~ Jen &amp; David Dudenhefer</td>
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THANK YOU for mailing your offerings to BMC at 3910 Table Mesa Drive, 80305 or donating online at https://bouldermennonite.org/donate/.

CONGRATS TO NEW GRANDPARENTS Judy & Paul Classen, on the birth of grandson Jacob Jay Classen, born to Erin & Tim Classen in Chicago. Prayers that baby Jacob will continue to thrive and be healthy. Congrats also to aunt Suzanne and uncle Ryan, and to cousins Olive & Iris!

COMMITTEES, please remember to report your financial needs for the year July 2020 to June 2021 to the Ministry of Financial Resources Committee by MAY 11. (Committee members are Eldon M, Bruce F, Becky S., and Gary S.)
THE “APRIL” TASKS at Earth’s Table Garden were successfully completed by Carole Suderman and a few volunteers. The next opportunity to “help” will be later in May.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE (MSMC)

www.mountainstatesmc.org.

Consider being a delegate who will represent your congregation in MSMC this coming year. All active credentialed pastors are delegates, PLUS each congregation is entitled to one delegate for every 50 attenders/members or percentage of thereof. Please indicate your interest to Pastor Randy by June 1.

The Festival of Homiletics: For many of us, these last few weeks have included new challenges. We’ve been forced to adapt, to change our routines, and to find creative ways of working, worshipping, and staying connected to one another. Our prayers have changed as well, as the risk of COVID-19 spreads, as we know infection on a personal level, and as we lose people we love. In the midst of all this, we’ve tried to determine the best, safest, and most inclusive way for handling the 2020 Festival of Homiletics. It hasn’t been easy, but we believe the message, Preaching a New Earth: Climate and Creation, is needed more in this moment than ever before. With that in mind, we will be making this year’s Festival exclusively available online. We’ve also decided to make it free for anyone to participate. Our hope and prayer is that your hearts, your minds, and your budgets will be blessed in new and wonderful ways. Registration is available at https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/. At a time when gathering is impossible, we’re thankful to still have this opportunity. Please join us!

ERRAND RUNNERS, a Boulder-based volunteer organization, runs free errands for the sick, at-risk and essential workers. If they can help you or someone you know, contact Ali Johnson (she/her/hers) Errand Runners Boulder 720) 551-8676 and at https://www.errandrunnersboulder.org/.

BRIDGE HOUSE provides adults experiencing homelessness with critical services. Support their work by mailing a check to # 5 at 5345 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder 80303 or contributing online at www.Boulderbridgehouse.org/donate.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONNECTOR for Boulder county, Jan Decourtney can be contacted at 303-527-2886 or coloradojan97@yahoo.com.

BOULDER COUNTY RESOURCES to support people with COViD19 at https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/covid-19-resources/.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER at Help Colorado Now https://covrn.com/.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: “GivingTuesday” is a global day of giving that will take place on May 5, 2020. Your investment, as a donor, helps support our partner families as they move into their homes, and allows us to make an impact in our community by providing affordable home ownership opportunities. Donate at www.flatironshabitat.org

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

CONGREGATIONAL RELIEF FUND: Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), Everence® and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. (MCC U.S.) launched a $550,000 COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund to aid churches facing financial crisis due to the pandemic. The fund will be administered by Everence Foundation. A committee with representation from MDS, Everence and MCC will review requests and allocate grants based on need. https://mds.mennonite.net/covid-19-donations/.

RESOURCES from MENNONITE CHURCH USA
~ Taftsville Chapel, Creation Care: http://mennoniteusa.org/news/taftsville/

RESOURCES to FOSTER a SPIRIT of HOPE and RESILIENCE:
~ Podcast: Ethical Considerations During the Coronavirus Pandemic.
~ “On the Emmaus Road”: a song offered, on video, by Bryan Moyer Suderman.


MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE
~ April issue of Courier available for download at www.mwc_cmm.org/article/courier.
~ Is appointing a Creation Care Task Force.
~ Lutheran Mennonite International Study Team’s final report. Click here: Healing Memories: Reconciling in Christ

MENNO MEDIA (mennomedia.org)
~ Hot off the press, Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity. Learn what Anabaptism teaches us about healthy masculinity. www.heraldpress.org

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK’S current issue of Beyond Faith in Action is only available electronically at www.mennonitemission.net.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE UNLEASED: A 5-week free Zoom webinar.

Wednesdays / May 6 - June 3 from 6:00 - 7:15 pm (Mountain time)
  Session One: The Restorative Justice Worldview
  Session Two: Essential Skills for Personal Responsibility
  Session Three: Relationship and Conflict Transformation Skills
  Session Four: Deep Nonviolence and the Beloved Community
  Session Five: Bring it Home to Your Heart and Community

TO REGISTER, email: scott@4activepeace.com.

NATURAL SELF CARE in TIMES of the PANDEMIC: A video of the webinar, hosted by Naropa University, is now available at https://youtu.be/p6SREfUDVUc.

CAZA DE PAZ has no paid staff and is led and run 100% by volunteers. During this pandemic it remains open and continues to reunite families separated by immigrant detention during a world-wide pandemic.

ECOLOGY TIP: The Environmental Protection Agency has recently suspended the enforcement of environmental law during the pandemic, endangering the health of people and our planet at a time when we need the protection more than ever. Factories can release pollution into the air and water with no worry of fines or punishment. If this concerns you, contact Senators Bennet and Gardner, asking that regulations be enforced.