

Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Last Sunday in the Church Year – God's Reign of Love

A Service of the Word & Table



*The Anointed Separates the Sheep from the Goats. 6th century, CE anonymous mosaic.
Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy*

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.



Boulder Mennonite Church is a vibrant, Jesus-centered community welcoming all people to know God and to be ambassadors of God's love, healing, and peace.

GATHERING

Prelude

***Singing** Christ is our cornerstone, vv. 1, 2, 4 4

Call to Worship

Leader: With faith to face our challenges,

People: with love that casts out fear,

Leader: with hope to trust tomorrow,

People: we accept this day as the gift it is: a reason for rejoicing.

*All: Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life
in this present reign of God!*

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing Christ is king! Let earthly powers 410

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm our faith

**All: We believe in a bright and amazing God,
who goes to the depths of despair on our behalf;
who rises in splendor and majesty;
who decorates the universe with sparkling water,
clear white light,
twinkling stars and sharp colors,
over and over again.**

**We believe that Jesus is the light of the world;
that God believes in us, and trusts us,
even though we make the same mistakes
over and over again.**

**We commit ourselves to the Way of Jesus,
to one another as sisters and brothers,
and to being God's helpers in the world.
This is the joyful Reign of God! Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Offering Invitation/Blessing

Please place your prayer requests in the basket with your offering.

At home: please type your prayer requests into the "Chat" column on Zoom or send them via email at least 2hrs prior to the worship service. Or [click here to donate online.](#)

Offertory

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25.31-45

Jesus said, "At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

"The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.' Then these just will ask, **'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?'** The ruler will answer them, **'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'**

"Then the ruler will say to those on the left, 'Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger, and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.' Then they in turn will ask, **'When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?'** The answer will come, **'The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.'**

Singing

Will you let me be your servant, vv. 1, 2, 3

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Now Testament Reading

We Are All Good Goats, D., S., & M. Linn

Among a group of elderly retired Roman Catholic nuns, one sister raised her hand and said, "But what about the story of the sheep and goats? It says right there that the sheep go to heaven and the goats go to hell."

Dennis asked the whole group, "How many of you, even once in your life, have done what Jesus asks at the beginning of that passage and fed a hungry person, clothed a naked

person or visited a person in prison?" All the sisters raised their hands.

"That's wonderful! You're all sheep." Then Dennis asked, "How many of you, even once in your life, have walked by a hungry person, failed to clothe a naked person, or not visited someone in prison?" Slowly all the sisters raised their hands. "That's too bad," Dennis said. "You're all goats." The sisters looked worried and perplexed. Then suddenly one very old sister's hand shot up. She blurted out, "I get it! We're all good goats!"

That sister did get it. She understood that heaven and hell is symbolic language, not specific geographical places. They are symbols of inner realities, of states of being. All of us who have felt alienated, unloved, overwhelmed by shame or helplessly caught in an addiction know what it's like to be in hell. And all of us who have been welcomed home, who have seen our goodness reflected in the affirming eyes of another or who have been loved into recovery know what it's like to be in heaven. We all have wheat and weeds within us, sheep and goats. The kingdom of God is within us, and we're all good goats.

Message

For the Least of These

RESPONDING: The Service of Communion

Singing

Let us break bread together

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Communion Prayer and Thanksgiving

Revelation 19.5-9b, adapted

Leader: Then a voice came from the throne, saying,

All: *Praise our God, all you servants of God, you who love the Most High, both small and great!*

Leader: Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, shouting,

All: *Hallelujah! Our Sovereign God has begun to reign! Let us rejoice and exult and be glad, for the wedding day of the Lamb is at hand, the betrothed is ready.*

Leader: Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

All: *These words are trustworthy and faithful to our God.*

The Story from our tradition

1 Corinthians 11.23-26, adapted

Leader: Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim Jesus' death and celebrate Jesus' life until the Anointed One comes.

All: *We pray together that in eating the bread and drinking the cup our life will be enriched, and we make, here and now, the reign of God a reality.*

(Everyone is welcome to come to the table. Gluten-free bread is available; organic, unsweetened grape juice is served. If you do not wish to receive food and drink, please know you are welcome to come to the table for a blessing – just approach the pastor or a server.)

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Joy to the world, vv. 1, 4

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Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Communion liturgy adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, , The Iona Community, Wild Goose Pub., 2001, p. 110

Call to Worship, Adapted from Gary Kowalski, Liturgy for the Celebration of Life, Uniting Church of St. James, Curtin, Aus.

Good Goats: Healing our Image of God; Linn et al; 1994 Paulist Press, Mahway, NJ

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Speaker: | Pastor Randy Spaulding |
| Worship Leader: | Becky Neumann |
| Readers: | Sandi Sanborn, Toni Diaz Bachus |
| Music: | Judy Classen, Pastor Randy |
| Moment for all Ages: | Karen Cox |
| Tech Support: | Tice Family |
| Greeters: | Ezra & Joan Tice |
| Snacks: | Elvira Glenn, Sandi Sanborn |
| Communion Servers: | Paul Classen, Toni Diaz Bachus, Barry Janzen |

November 19, 2023

Attendance: 57

Offering: \$

TODAY at BMC

9:30am Worship and mingling

No Education Hour

11:15am Book discussion small group

THIS WEEK at BMC

11/28 Sanctuary Coalition (BASIC) @BMC, 1:30p

11/28 Singing small group, 6:30p

11/29 Deacons meeting, 11:30a

11/30 Advent sanctuary preparation, 4pm

NEXT SUNDAY – December 3: First Sunday in the Season of Advent: *Hope*

9:30am Worship and mingling

11:00am Adult Education Hour, sanctuary

11:00am Youth Gathering, Room 102

COMING UP

12/3 Season of Advent begins

- 12/5 Introverts informal small group, 1p
- 12/6 Centering prayer small group, 11a
- 12/7 Bible study small group, 7p
- 12/8 Changing world small group, 6p
- 12/12 Introverts informal small group, 1p
- 12/12 Singing small group
- 12/15 BMC Holiday Open House, Pastor Randy & Gary's, 5/8p
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Soup Potluck (5:30pm), Candlelight & Carols, 6:30pm

~PRAYERS~

- ~from **Paul McKay**: For the restoration of **Mary McKay's** hearing. Prayers for the peaceful transition of power and for the president-elect, in **Guatemala**.
- ~from **Ivanna**: Prayers for MCC central states Executive Director, **Michelle Armster**, who has taken a personal leave of absence for the next two months. She is the caregiver of her mother with dementia and a few weeks ago, she and her sister went to Arizona to place their father in an assisted living facility. Her brother died suddenly and unexpectedly approximately two months ago.
- ~from **Community Peacemaker Teams**: Give thanks for participants at the Healing our Borders Vigil in Douglas, AZ who call out the names of migrants who died in the desert attempting to cross the border in the hope of safety and a better life. **Pray for every migrant who has died in the desert, crossing the ocean or at the hands of criminal or legal authorities, and for their grieving families.** [Read more here.](#)

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

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

DEACONS: Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527; Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712

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

CHURCH ADMINSTRATOR: Ivanna is in the office on Tuesday from 6:30a to 2:30p and Wednesday from 6a to 2p.

| December Birthdays | | December Anniversaries |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2 - Karl Ortman | 16 - Kent Olson | 6 - Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus 31 - Jonathan & Debra Falk |
| 10 - Cindi Fausel | 18 - Bennet Mathis | |
| 15 - Carol Grasse | | |

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

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

OUR BMC AUCTION last Sunday (Nov. 19) raised \$10,200.00 for the work of our faith community. Way to go, BMCers – Thank you! And thanks to all those who helped make it a success, including those who made donations, those who bid, the runners, auctioneers, those who tallied bids, snack helpers, and setup and cleanup crews!



BMC CHRISTMAS CAROLING, Anyone? See the sign-up sheet to indicate your interest and best day (Sunday, Dec. 10 or 17). We'll meet at the church at 5:00pm. We will sing outside on lawns and porches along close-in streets as weather allows. We'll be out and about with our merry holiday tunes from 5-6 p.m., then back to BMC for fellowship and snacks (bring a favorite food to share). Thank you!



DENVER POPS ORCHESTRA –

GLEE AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE:

Join the Denver Pops Orchestra on **Saturday, December 9th, at 4p** at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, located at 7530 W. 38th Ave in Wheat Ridge. **BMC's own Justin Mathis** will have a couple of brief solos. Space is limited and tickets may sell out. Find [more information and tickets here](#).



HOW CAN MENNONITES BE PUBLIC PEACEMAKERS in this moment? [Mennonite Action](#) is a movement that is mobilizing Anabaptists across the US and Canada to demand a permanent ceasefire, end the US and western funded occupation of Palestine and build for a lasting peace. Join the Zoom call on Tuesday, November 28 to hear from speakers including Mennonite pastors, a Palestinian Mennonite leader, an allied Rabbi, a Palestinian organizing in the West Bank, leaders from Mennonite Action, and more. They will speak to the crisis in Gaza and the West Bank and call for Mennonites everywhere to join the worldwide interfaith movement that is taking public, nonviolent action to stop the war, and speak out against antisemitism and Islamophobia. [Sign up for the call by clicking here](#).

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

Learn More About MCC's Advocacy and Response, to the violence in Palestine and Israel [here](#). MCC also offers resources for better understanding the situation and ways to financially support a humanitarian response in Gaza:

- [Palestine Israel booklet](#)
- [Disaster response initiatives](#)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Menno Snapshots: As part of Mennonite Church USA’s latest Learn, Pray, Join initiative, End Gun Violence, Jonny Rashid, pastor for West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship, a member church of Allegheny Mennonite Conference, shared a prayer of lament about gun violence. [Read it here.](#)

Menno Snapshots: Anabaptist musicians from a variety of countries met this spring in Canada for a songwriting retreat sponsored by Anabaptist Worship Network. George Makinto, director of worship at Los Angeles (California) Faith Chapel, recounts how he experienced hope through the gathering of such a diverse group of people worshipping God together. [Read more here.](#)

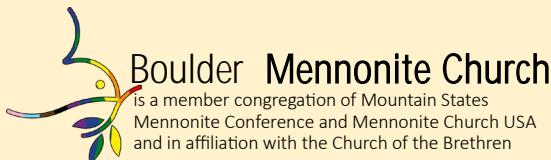
MennoPINs: Michael George, a Palestinian-American and facilitator of MennoPIN’s “Twinning with Gaza” Initiative, a Mennonite Church USA affinity group, laments the recent attacks from Hamas and ongoing war in Israel/Palestine. [Read it here.](#)

Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for ministerial leadership for Mennonite Church USA, reminds us that Anabaptist congregational leadership requires collaboration, from the leaders and from the congregation. The process to make changes takes time, but the inclusive nature of the process is worth it. [Read more here.](#)

ECOLOGY TIP: The abundance of Colorado sunshine makes it easy to save energy in our homes! Any time you will be sitting indoors for a period of time, turn down the heat several degrees and choose to sit in the light and warmth of a sunny window or glass door. It is easy to imagine God’s love pouring over us through this natural source of heat!



Donate to BMC



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