



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday in the Season of Lent: Return to Love's Way

A Service of the Word



*The Temptation of the Christ, Sadao Watanabe, Japan
1968 mingei (folk art) print*

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 *Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord* Mendelssohn
***Singing** Come thou fount of every blessing 563

Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the fount of every blessing,

People: through the season of Lent, through the wilderness of life.

Leader: In our wanderings, we seek to safely arrive at home,

People: to know the cool comfort of your shelter and rest, O God.

Leader: God offers the care of angels, the gentleness of creation, the love of this community, and the protection of love.

People: Gather us in from our wanderings, O God,

All: Take our hearts and seal them with your generous love!

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing The glory of these forty days 305

Confessing and Centering Prayer

Leader: Holy and Merciful God, we declare that we have wandered from the Jesus path and sought our own way.

People: Forgive us, O God, and lead us back to Love's way.

Leader: When we have chosen power over humility and fear over trust,

People: Forgive us, O God, and lead us back to Love's way.

Leader: When we have turned away from the suffering of others and failed to love as we know we should,

People: Forgive us, O God, and lead us back to Love's way.

Leader: God of grace, restore us and renew us, that we may walk in Truth and Love.

All: Amen.

Singing Christ has broken down the wall 174

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

Andantino

Schubert

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 26.5-11

Then you will declare before the Eternal One, "My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a few family members and lived there as an immigrant. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to the God of our ancestors, who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. The Eternal One brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with awesome power, with signs and wonders; the Eternal One gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products of the soil that you, O God, have given me."

Then you must set your firstfruits before the Eternal One and bow down before God. Then you all, along with the Levites, and the immigrants that live among you, will feast on all the good things that the Eternal One has given to you and your family.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4.1-13

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished. The Devil said to Jesus, "**If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread.**" Jesus answered, "**Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'**"

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, "**I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Bow down and thank me, and it will all be yours.**" In reply, Jesus said, "**Scripture has it: 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.'**"

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "**If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it, 'God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.'**" Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "**It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'**" When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

Now Testament Reading*The Journey*, Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew what you had to do, and began,
 though the voices around you kept shouting their bad advice—
 though the whole house began to tremble and you felt the old tug at your ankles.
 "Mend my life!" each voice cried. But you didn't stop.
 You knew what you had to do, though the wind pried with its stiff fingers at the
 very foundations, though their melancholy was terrible.
 It was already late enough, and a wild night, and the road full of fallen branches and stones.
 But little by little, as you left their voices behind, the stars began to burn through the sheets
 of clouds, and there was a new voice which you slowly recognized as your own,
 that kept you company as you strode deeper and deeper into the world,
 determined to do the only thing you could do—
 determined to save the only life you could save.

Message *Returning to Love's Way: Wandering Toward Faith & Integrity***RESPONDING****Singing**

When pain or sorrow (Hold On)

612

Planting Seeds of Hope

*(After the hymn, you are invited to come forward and sprinkle seeds into
 the containers on the worship table, a symbol of hope and "a spring that waits to be
 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.")*

Sharing Joys and Concerns**Prayers of the People****SENDING****Announcements*****Benediction*****Sending Song**

The Lord lift you up

832

Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Cover art: [Sadao Watanabe - Scenes from the Bible](#)*The Journey*, in Oliver, Mary. *Dream Work*. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1986**Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!****Speaker:**

Pastor Randy Spaulding

Worship Leader: Sandi Sanborn
Readers: Berit Jany, Jean McPherson
Music: Susan Graber, Jean McPherson
Tech Support: Bruce Wheeler, Steve Voran
Greeters: Carole Suderman, Toni Diaz Bachus
Snacks: Elvira Glenn, Gus Gouvas
Moment for All Ages: Karen Cox

March 2, 2025: **Attendance:** 43 **Offering:** \$4,366
Please Note: Offerings are falling significantly behind the annual budget (c. \$10,000). Your regular donations and special gifts are gratefully received and important for the vital work and mission of the congregation. *Thank you!*

TODAY at BMC

9:30a Worship and mingling
11:00a Education Hour. Adults meet in the sanctuary; Youth Gathering, Rm. 112

THIS WEEK at BMC

Tues, 11 Singing small group, 6:30p
Wed, 12 Deacons mtg., 8:30am
Wed, 12 Meditation/Centering Prayer Group, 11am
Thurs, 13 Church Council mtg., 5:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – March 16, 2025: Second Sunday in the Season of Lent

9:30a Worship and mingling
11:00a Education Hour
5:00p Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, 4p, Broomfield

COMING UP

3/25 Singing small group, 6:30p
3/29 Justin Mathis Clarinet Recital at BMC, 7:00p
4/20 Easter Sunday
4/23 Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, 4p, Broomfield
5/4 Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing, 1:15pm, Glennon Heights Mennonite
7/8-12 MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC
8/1-3 Assembly weekend, Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Glennwood Spgs

~PRAYERS~

~from **Paul & Judy Classen:** Prayers for the children, **Cheryl and Steve**, of our good friend and former neighbor, **Lowell Detweiler**, who passed away March 1st in Lancaster County, PA. Lowell was the former executive director of MDS for 25 years.

- ~for the family and friends of **Don Juan Melendez**, who passed away March 1st at home at the blessed age of 97. Don Juan is **Abe Melendez**'s father.
- ~from the **McKay**'s giving thanks for **Haydee**'s continued healing and prayers that she may come home soon.
- ~of support and strength for the **people of Ukraine** in this difficult time.
- ~for **federal workers** who have been removed from their jobs of public service. Prayers for their families, their communities, and the people who will be impacted by the loss of their work.

March Birthdays

(Feb 28) – Noah Tice 1 – Gus Dino Gouvas 2 – Nancy Wolff 4 – Laura Minter 7 – Ryan Loewer 13 – Marit	16 – Nevin McKay Epp 23 – Cindy Firnhaber 27 – Becky Sawatzky 27 – Joshua Tice 30 – Koketso Firnhaber
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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: Tuesday, Wednesday and 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 ~

LENT 2025: RETURN TO LOVE'S WAY. Lent is often referred to as *Spring Cleaning for the Soul*. It's a time to learn to travel light, to clear the clutter from our crowded hearts and lives, and to find a space to reconnect with the Holy. Like the labyrinth, it is both an inward journey and a return. This year, the theme invites us to *return to the way of Love*, trusting in the Spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal. At *Boulder Mennonite Church* we will practice corporate **confession** in worship, a key element of Lent. May we find food for our hungry souls and the refreshing water that quenches all thirst. ~ **Pastor Randy**

Thank you to our Visual Task Force – Becky Neumann, Elleanna Voran, Gwen Grasse and Sandi Sanborn – for preparing the sanctuary and foyer for our Lenten Season!

“WALKING” THE LABYRINTH. During Lent, you are encouraged to make walking the labyrinth a spiritual discipline. Walking a labyrinth is an ancient practice of penance and spiritual re-alignment. Unlike a maze, there is only one way through a Labyrinth, no dead ends, and no way of getting lost. It represents a journey into your own soul, and back out into the world. On the east wall of the sanctuary you will find a labyrinth tapestry that you can “walk” at any time – before or after worship, or during quiet times during the week. Pick up a *finger labyrinth* on the table near the sanctuary entrance and take it with you. Or visit one of the many outdoor labyrinths in our community, including at St. Aidan’s Episcopal, Mountain View United Methodist, and New Church of Boulder Valley. [Click here for a labyrinth locator.](#) *I on your path, O God; you, O God, on my way.* Or



~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing**, May 4, 2025, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church. Reception to follow, saying good-bye to Brenda & Barry Bartel, who are moving to Oregon.
- **Mountain States Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly.** It is being held near Glenwood Springs, Aug 1-3, 2025.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP (RMMC): Summer [Staff](#) and Camping Season Opportunities are available! [Register](#) for resident and youth camps by March 15 for best rates.

MENNONITE ACTION: Mennonite Action’s podcast, [Front Light](#). Check out our brand-new action toolkit. Our new [“God’s Love Knows No Borders” toolkit](#) and [nationwide events](#).

MCC ACTION: Respond to rising violence in the West Bank. [Click here](#) to learn more, take action steps, donate and connect with a faith reflection.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC): [February “In Touch” Newsletter](#). MCC’s work around migration is rooted in biblical understandings, this shapes WHAT we do and HOW we do it. MCC works in all parts of a migrant's journey. Walk with us as we welcome the stranger. To find out more [check out our immigrant support website](#).

MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE (MSMC): [March “Zing!” Newsletter](#); Read personal experiences from the Faith and Life Forum! And see the Cultivating Peace line up for a summer kick off from Beth-el Mennonite Church: **Seeds of Transformation That Harvest Community**, that will enable us to foster connections with other faith communities who are cultivating peace in their local contexts. Our hope is that these connections will be a wellspring of community, encouragement, and inspiration for us and for the communities we are a part of.

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS): [February “On the Level” Newsletter](#). MDS has volunteer opportunities for you! See the full list of volunteer opportunities when you [click here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA (MCUSA): [Equipping Newsletter](#). Our [larger denomination](#) has information and resources to share with us like information about [Anti-Racism Resources](#), giving a [Church Peace Tax Fund presentation](#), and [MC USA Women’s Summit 2025: A sacred invitation to pause, restore and resist](#), which is part of MC USA’s Convention – Follow Jesus 25 July 8-12, 2025, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK (MMN): [February “Seeds of Peace” Newsletter](#). With an article about Grandmas in Benin.

MENNONITE WOMEN USA: ~ Ponder, Affirm, Question & Celebrate ~ [February “Grapevine”](#)

MENNONITE MEN: ~ Engaging men to grow, give and serve. ~ [February “Engage” Newsletter](#).

Supporting Boys Coming of Age: Over the past year, parents have approached Mennonite Men about what we might offer for boys coming of age. Parents recognize that current activities—such as sports, clubs, and Scouts—are not the only ways to support their sons’ development. As an organization and through our JoinMen committee, we are considering how we can best serve parents, leaders, and boys who are maturing into adulthood. Are there particular Anabaptist approaches that can be modeled? [Read More Here.](#)

ANABAPTISM AT 500 ESSAY CONTEST - Showcase your writing skills and win financial support for your education. Interested students should go [online](#) to complete the application form and upload their essay. All applications must be submitted by April 19, 2025.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

ECOLOGY TIP: Did you know that the National Park Service has a curriculum in which students can debate the “dueling mandates” of preserving public lands and providing for the enjoyment of the people? Perhaps you can suggest these lesson plans to a teacher you know or otherwise use it with adults. There’s also an intriguing article in the George Wright Forum about this delicate balance. This forum provides a place for discussion of research and best practices of caring for wild places, including parks, monuments, and cultural sites around the world.



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

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