

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 7, 2010

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Chorister: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

*Even in deep darkness, our sheltering God holds us.  
We release our grip on earthly things and open ourselves  
to God's transformation.*

## Gathering and Holding On

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

*During this time we spend a few moments introducing our guests. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we meet together with our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### \* Call to Worship

One: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. The Lord is holy in all his ways.

Many: **God is holy, enthroned on the praises of his people.**

**Praise the Lord our God; Holy is He.**

One: God has called us with a holy calling, to be holy and blameless before him in love, not because of what we have done, but because of his own purpose and grace.

Many: **As God who called us is holy, we ourselves must be holy in all conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"**

All: ***Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come!***

### \* Gathering Prayer

### \* Gathering Hymn No. 400 *Santo, santo, santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)*

Affirmation of Faith Hymn No. 716

## Hearing God's Word

Old Testament Reading Psalm 27

Amanda Regehr

### Children's Story

Lisa Schmidt

*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*

### \* Hymn No. 36 *God of our strength*

New Testament Reading 1 Peter 1:1-12

Amanda Regehr

Sermon *The People of God as Community on a Journey* Gilberto Flores

### \* Hymn of Response No. 322 *For we are strangers no more*

## Letting Go

### Prayer of Confession

God of truth, often the darkness is of our own making.  
We find that we have fallen in love with the shadows,  
and would rather blame someone else than face our weakness.  
*Silence.*

Help us to open our eyes to you, the source of light. Amen

Words of Assurance Hymn No. 707

Offering our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

### Congregational Sharing and Prayer

## Sending

### \* Sending Hymn No. 343 *My hope is built on nothing less* verses 1-4

### \* Benediction

One: God of light, you are the source of all true seeing.

Many: **Let our families see your light.**

One: Let our communities see your light.

All: ***Let your light spread throughout the world.***

### Postlude

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

At the conclusion of the worship service we invite the adults to be seated and take a few moments to greet one another while the children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

## **For Sharing and Prayer**

Today we welcome Gilberto Flores, Associate Western District Conference Minister for Texas. Gilberto is a longtime leader in the Mennonite Church, and he joins us this morning as part of our relationship with our sister church in Dallas, Comunidad de Esperanza. Welcome, Gilberto!

All adult Sunday School classes are invited to the sanctuary for a joint session with Gilberto.

Thank you to John Claassen for building the cross we are using for Lent.

**Western District Conference:** Pray for Brett Dewey, installed today as the Pastor of Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Recruiting teachers for LCC International University, a four-year Christian liberal arts college in Lithuania, is becoming increasingly difficult due to the global recession and new migration laws. Pray for Robin Gingerich, director of LCC's English language programs, and for a complete staff for the coming academic year.

## Church Events

**Monday at 7:00 p.m.** Hands of Friendship meet at church to bake peppernuts for Mennonite Central Committee. Hostess & Devotions: Mary Ann Wiebe and Miriam Claassen; Financial Project: Mennonite Women USA.

**Tuesday afternoon** Quilters: You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt anytime from 1-5 p.m.

**Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** Administrative Council meets at church.

**Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Business Council meets at church.

**Wednesday 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Children's and Youth Programming  
**7:00 – 7:40 p.m.** Adult Choir  
**7:45 – 8:15 p.m.** Adult Bible Study with Pastor Peter

**Friday – Sunday** High School Snow Camp is next weekend, March 12-14. Please see the information provided in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Katherine.

### **About the Worship Theme of Lent: "Holding on and Letting Go":**

While the scripture readings in Lent always bend toward repentance, this year's texts focus particularly on calling back believers who have fallen away. In these passages we see two parallel invitations:

- 1) to hold on to what is most important and
- 2) to let go of what is peripheral or gets in the way of further growth.

Sometimes we release the ungodly ways of the culture we so easily take for granted. Sometimes we let go of familiar religious beliefs because they are more human creation and habit than essentials of the faith. At times, it is sin that gets in our way. We may hold on to our pride rather than apologize, or clutch resentment rather than forgive, or defend our own rights while others suffer worse conditions. And sometimes we must let go of something that is truly good - a loved one, a hope for the future, our idea of who we are - to continue to grow and develop as God wishes. We look to Jesus as our model, the one who made himself usable for God by letting go of his very life, entrusting himself to the height and depth, the breadth and width of God's love.

~ From the MCUSA "Leader Magazine" Worship Resources for Lent 2010

## Announcements

**An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary** today in the Adult Sunday School Classes. The offering will be used to purchase items that are beneficial to the residents of the Manor. Hands of Friendship is sponsoring this offering.

**Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donate this month:** condiments. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

**You're invited to join "Prayers of the Church"** each Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Please feel free to place prayer requests in the prayer box in the foyer.

**Nursery This Sunday:** Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Doug Hiebert and Terry Klassen

**Preaching Next Sunday:** Clarence Rempel

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Tara Harms-Becker

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Adult Choir

**Offering Last Sunday:** Western District Conference \$1,661.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Local Church

### **CHURCH OFFICES**

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Pastor: Peter Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [pastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

*Secretary's E-mail:* [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**Comfort Blitz-** It is time for the 4th annual Comfort Blitz!! It will be held at Journey Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder, Kansas. Dates and times are Monday, March 8, noon-9 p.m. and Tuesday, March 9, 9-5. All are welcome including youth groups. Check bulletin board for more detailed information.

**Sunset Supper** - Mark your calendars ladies!! An evening of fellowship and inspiration is planned for Thursday, March 11, at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. This annual Spring Supper will feature Gracia Burnham as guest speaker. A soup supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. (costing \$6.00 per person). This event is for Women of South Central Conference and Western District Conference and their guests.

**“A Bundle of Shorts”** to be presented at Hutchinson Correctional Facility March 13, 7:00 p.m. The Rock Castle Drama Troupe, a group of actors incarcerated at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, will present “A Bundle of Shorts,” an evening of short plays. The cast includes five men, who have been meeting regularly since January to rehearse dramas by David Ives, August Wilson and others. With humor and poignancy, these plays remind us that no matter the role or the situation, being human means facing life’s big questions, and sometimes the greatest insights come from the least among us. “A Bundle of Shorts” is directed by Dr. John McCabe-Juhnke, professor of Communication Arts at Bethel College with the assistance of Brandon Nelson, Bethel Theater Alumnus and local theater talent. The performance is sponsored by the Prison Arts Project, a program of Offender-Victim Ministries. If you wish to get on the admission list you must phone OVM at (316) 283-2038 by Thursday, March 11.

**All are invited to First Mennonite Church,** Halstead, for a Celebration of Music on March 21 at 7 p.m. They are celebrating their 135th anniversary. A social time will follow the program. For more information: 316-835-2282.

**From Camp Mennoscah - The Scrapbooking Retreat** is March 12-14. Registrations accepted until the retreat is full, so it’s not too late to join us. Also, have you heard about our **Sustainable Living Retreat** (April 9-11)? Sessions throughout the weekend will focus on aspects and experiences of being sustainable in today’s world. Information on both retreats can be found at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) in the Coming Events section. **OH MY! I forgot** to announce that the first ten people who find an error in the 2010 Camp Mennoscah catalog will win an old-style Camp Mennoscah tee shirt (your size, our choice). No one caught my biggest error last year—or at least you didn’t tell me. **Free tee shirt!** Come on, you can’t tell me that you don’t need another free tee shirt. Parents volunteering at Camp Mennoscah for our summer youth camps as kitchen staff get a free Camp Mennoscah tee shirt. And you get to be a part of our wow-fully wonderful camping ministry! Parents also receive a camper discount up to full camp fees. We’re also looking for nurses (paid position). Contact Olivia at Camp Mennoscah at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or 620-297-3290.

**Mark Your Calendars!** The annual Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 23-25. Guys only, all ages, plan to bring a friend.

**Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service** would like to have groups of volunteers travel to Holly, Colorado to help install sheet rock and tape the sheet rock in a small Baptist church that is being built new. The old church was mostly destroyed during a tornado on March 28, 2007. Groups will be needed the last week in March and the first week in April. The church does have a project director on site; therefore volunteers need to come ready to work. Many volunteers are welcome and needed! Church members of that small congregation of about 40 are willing and eager to have volunteers stay in their homes and will feed them. We would like to have volunteers be in Holly for five days at a time, or if you are just passing through, you could work for fewer days. MDS vans could be used for transportation if needed. Call Gordon Unruh (620-834-2319) if you can help out with this project.