

Gathering

VT 460 - From North and South, from East and West

Call to Worship

What is it like to begin again?

It is like flowers in the spring that push through the frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

May we find God in our seeking.

May we learn as we go.

May we be brave enough to begin again.

Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

Welcome & Birthday Recognition

VT 465 - Prepare a Room for Me

Peace Lamp

Beloved, let us love one another

For God is love and love casts out fear

Offering – VT 745 God, Whose Giving

Confessing & Reconciling

Prayer of Confession

God of New life, you call us into unknown places,

And we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky,

And we doubt it can be true.

You speak of new life in the Spirit,

And we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

VT 673 – Our God in Heaven

Telling God's Story

Children's Time (*Children 3 and under are dismissed for Little Children's Time in room 2, with childcare afterward. Children 4 and up are invited to the front for Children's time*)

Prayer of Illumination

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Sermon

Responding & Sharing our Stories

VT 485 Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Communion

VT 476 Eat this Bread, VT 467 Taste and See,

VT 482 Let us Break Bread Together

Sharing & Pastoral Prayer

Introducing Visitors

Sending

Announcements (*Please get oral announcements to the worship leader in writing before this time*)

VT 478 – I Come with Joy

Benediction

Thanks to: Worship Leader: Anna Yoder Schlabach; Song Leader: Bill Mateer; Musicians: Mary Gilbert, Karen Graber Roth, Isaya Magatti, Anne Horst Hanby; Peace Lamp/Scripture Reader: Stephen Lowe; Children's time: Jon Zirkle; Sermon: Becky Smuts; Sharing & pastoral prayer: Scott Coulter; Tech Crew: Jenna Martin and Marshall King; Visuals: see back; Communion servers: Scott Coulter, Susan Mark Landis, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Lora Nafziger, Karl Shelly, Eric Yordy, Sara Morris

Second Hour:

Anabaptist Bible Study: Multipurpose North

Audio Divina: Worship Space

Poetry prompts: Multipurpose Table (self-led)

Coming up in Lent:

Wednesday evening meal and Evensong service 6 p.m.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

This worship space has two systems to help people with hearing loss participate more fully in our life together.

1. FM system. Get a receiver and an ear speaker from the sound booth.
2. Hearing Loop accessed by hearing aids with t-coils. Find a seat in the worship space and turn on the t-coils in your hearing aids. (You do not need a receiver or headphones.) Talk to someone in the sound booth if you are having issues receiving the signal.

renacimiento

by Carmelle Beaugelin

Inspired by John 3:1-17 Conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper

I was raised in a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal church in Miami called “Renacimiento.” A simple translation of renacimiento to English means “rebirth” or “renaissance.” For my small Pentecostal church, renacimiento meant far more than the symbolism of being “born-again” Christians. It was a perpetual reminder that each time the saints gather to encounter Jesus, the Spirit calls us to continuous transformation, calling dead things into new life and Holy Spirit-filled revival.

It is no wonder that Nicodemus seeks Jesus in the cover and darkness of night. It is in the quiet of night that our deepest fears startle us awake, that our anxieties of the day keep us from sound rest, and that the fear of the death of our dreams and bodies looms. As rapper Nas wrote in his debut album, *Illmatic*, “sleep is the cousin of death.”³

Yet Jesus challenges Nicodemus’ seeking in the night with a call to be born again, to renacimiento. Not just improvement, but transformation. Not simply resuscitation of what is and was, but a complete resurrection of what could and will be.

In this image, a metaphorically disrobed, aging, and vulnerable Nicodemus, surrounded by the milky gray swirls of water and spirit, wonders: How can this be? Haven’t I reached past my benchmarks? How is it that you are calling me to begin again?

We may see ourselves in Nicodemus today, holding the same questions in the sleeplessness of our darkest nights. Yet, what if we chose to hold fast to the faith that responds to our seeking? Jesus promises us that the winds and waters of the Spirit will lead us toward our own new beginning. Each of us will experience renacimiento if we dare to seek it. —Carmelle Beaugelin

³ Nas. “N.Y. State of Mind.” Track 2 on *Illmatic*. Columbia Records, 1994.

Lent 2023: Seeking



Lent 2: How do we begin again?

March 5, 2023

Assembly Mennonite Church

460 From North and South, Page 1 of 2 from East and West

THREE IN ONE C/M/D

G Am C G Am

1 From north and south, from east and west, O faith - ful
 2 We lift our hearts, O liv - ing God, with thanks and
 3 We thank you for your Word made flesh, our Sav - ior,
 4 Pour out your Spir - it now, to bless these gifts of

G D G Am C G

peo - ple, come to share the feast that Christ pre - pares,
 praise to you. Cre - a - tor of the u - ni - verse,
 Je - sus Christ, whose dy - ing has de - stroyed our death,
 bread and wine, and let them be a feast for us,

C Am G Bm D

where heav'n and earth are one. Come, all who hun - ger,
 your love makes all things new. "Most ho - ly, ho - ly,
 whose ris - ing gives us life. With grate - ful hearts we
 your cov' - nant seal and sign. As Christ is pres - ent

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G Em7 C F

all who thirst; with con - fi - dence, draw near, for
 ho - ly One!" the heav'n - ly choirs pro - claim. How
 of - fer you this sac - ri - fice of praise, re -
 in this place, so may we one day be u -

G Am C G C Am G

Je - sus Christ, the bread of life, is tru - ly pres - ent here.
 bles - sed is the one who comes in your most ho - ly name!
 mem - ber - ing your faith - ful - ness, re - joic - ing in your grace.
 nit - ed at your ta - ble now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Alternate tune: ELLACOMBE (#182 or #313).

Text: David Gambrell (USA), 2009, alt., © 2015 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: Heather Josselyn-Cranston, 2010, © 2019 Heather Josselyn-Cranston



Prepare a Room for Me

SOUTHWELL SM

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (B) C (Em) Fm

1 "Pre - pare a room for me, your Sav - ior,
 2 This room we have pre - pared; the ta - ble
 3 "Where e - ven two or three have come the
 4 Lord Christ, we seek the food your grace a -
 5 "My prom - ise I will keep; your hun - ger
 6 All thanks and praise to you, our Sav - ior,

Host and Priest, where I may gath - er
 now is set. We wait your prom - ised
 meal to share, un - seen, but liv - ing,
 lone can give. We come with emp - ty,
 will be fed, for in this meal I
 Lord and Friend, that through this loaf and

you, my friends, to cel - e - brate the feast."
 pres - ence, Lord, where we once more are met.
 lov - ing still, I sure - ly will be there!"
 hung'r - ing hearts that we may eat and live.
 of - fer you my - self, the liv - ing bread!"
 cup you share your love that has no end!

(D) Eb (G) A♭ (D) Eb (D7) Eb7
 (G) A♭ (D) Eb (Am) B♭m (B) C (Em) Fm

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

The verses of this hymn may be sung in alternation between a soloist and the congregation.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. (USA), © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: W. Damon (England), *Psalmes of David*, 1579

745
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God, Whose Giving

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

F Gm/F C F C

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing from your
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through

F Gm/Bb C F C F Gm/F

rich and end - less store - na - ture's won - der, Je - sus'
goals of Christ your Son: all at peace in health and
pow'rs your grace con - ferred - ours to use for home and

C F C F Gm/Bb C F

wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door -
free - dom, ra - ces joined, the church made one.
kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.

Am Dm7 Gm7 C7 F

gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - fring
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we

For capo chords, see #218.

Text: Robert L. Edwards (USA), *Ten New Stewardship Hymns*, 1961, © 1961, 1969 The Hymn Society (admin. Hape Publishing Co.)
Music: Rowland H. Prichard (Wales), ca. 1830, *Cyball y Cantorion*, 1844; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (England), *The English Hymnal*, 1906; adapt. 1951, *BBC Hymn Book*, © Oxford University Press, London

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Dm Gm7 Csus C F Gm7 F

up our - selves in praise. Thank - ful songs shall rise for -
strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents, make us
heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing, and re -

C F Bb F/C C7 F

ev - er, gra - cious Don - or of our days.
ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

LORD'S PRAYER (MILLER) Irregular



Page 1 of 1
465 Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

ST. COLUMBA 8.7.8.7 Iambic

Capo 3: (C) Eb (G) Bb (C) Eb

1 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands and like a
2 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands with lov - ing
3 Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands like bread we
4 Put Christ in - to each oth - er's hands to share love's

treas - ure hold it, pro - tect it like a
ex - pec - ta - tion; be gen - tle in your
break for shar - ing; look peo - ple warm - ly
deep - est meas - ure; in love make peace, give

(F) Ab 3 (C) Eb (G) Bb (Am) Cm (C) Eb

can - dle flame, with ten - der - ness en - fold it.
words and ways, in touch with God's cre - a - tion.
in the eye: our life is meant for car - ing.
peace a chance, and share it like a treas - ure.

(Em7) Gm7 (Am) Cm (C) Eb (G) Bb (C) Eb

For communion:
As at communion, shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, reverse,
united round the table.

Text: Fred Kaan (England), © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Irish traditional, *Irish Church Hymnal*, ca. 1873; harm. Charles Villiers Stanford (England), *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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476 Eat This Bread (Coman de este pan)

EAT THIS BREAD. Irregular

G C Am D

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Co - man de - es - te pan, be - ban de - es - te cá - liz,

Bm Em Dsus D G D

come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread,
ven - gan y no ten - drán ham - bre. Co - man de - es - te pan,

Em Bm C D G

drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.
be - ban de - es - te cá - liz, cre - an y no ten - drán sed.

Text: based on John 6:35; Robert J. Batastini (USA) and the Taizé Community (France), 1983, *Music from Taizé*, vol. 2, 1984;
Spanish trans. anon.
Music: Jacques Berthier (France), *Music from Taizé*, vol. 2, 1984
© 1984; trans. 2005, Les Presses de Taizé (admin GIA Publications, Inc.)

Taste and See

TASTE AND SEE Irregular

Refrain F C/F Bb/F F F/A Bb9 F/A Gm11 C7

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. O

F C/F Bb/F F Bb9 F/A Gm7 C7 F *Fine*

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Bb/F F Csus C7 F2 Am7 3

1 I will bless the Lord at all
2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with
3 Wor - ship the Lord, all you

Bbmaj7 F/A Gm11 F/A 3

times. Praise shall al-ways be on my
me. To-geth-er let us all praise God's
peo-ple. You'll want for noth-ing if you

C9sus C7 F A7 A/C# Dm2

lips; my soul shall glo-ry in the Lord,
name. I called the Lord who an - swered me;
ask. Taste and see that the Lord is good;

Dm7/C Bb9 F/A Gm7 C7 *To refrain*

for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou-bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

Text: based on Psalm 34:1-10; James E. Moore (USA)
Music: James E. Moore
© 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Let Us Break Bread Together

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER 10:10 with refrain

F C7 F Gm F

1 Let us break bread to-geth-er on our knees.
2 Let us drink wine to-geth-er on our knees.
3 Let us praise God to-geth-er on our knees.

Am G7 C Dm C

Let us break bread to-geth-er on our knees.
Let us drink wine to-geth-er on our knees.
Let us praise God to-geth-er on our knees.

Refrain F Gm

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing

C7 F Dm Gm7 C7 F

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual (USA)
Music: African American spiritual

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE CM extended

Capo 3: (D) (Em) (F#m) (Em) (D)
F Gm Am Gm F



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

(Bm) (A) (D) (Gmaj7) (F#m) (Bm) (D)
Dm C F Bbmaj7 Am Dm F



loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em7) (F#m) (G) (Gmaj7) (A) (A7) (D)
Gm7 Am Bb Bbmaj7 C C7 F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

