

Season of Creation: Mountain
Assembly Mennonite Church
September 28, 2025

Gathering

Hymn VT 182 I Sing the Mighty Power of God
Call to Worship
Welcome, Birthday Recognition

Opening Ourselves

Peace Lamp

L: Let justice roll down like a river

P: And goodness like an ever-flowing stream.

Offering VT 177 All Things Bright and Beautiful
Covenanting: Lisa and Jason Kauffman

Telling God's Story

VT 63 Like a Rock (each week)
Children's Time
(*children 3 and under are dismissed for little children time with childcare after*)
Scripture - Isaiah 2:2-4

L: The stories of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Responding

Hymn VT 423 God the Sculptor
Sharing from our lives
Pastoral Prayer

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine

And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen (John Philip Newell)

Sending

Introducing Visitors & Announcements
(*Sunday School teachers dismissed*)
Hymn VT 424 (v. 1) We Worship God the Rock
Benediction

Worship Leader: Eric Yordy; Song leader: Mary Gilbert; Peace Lamp: Carol Good-Elliott; Scripture Reader: Isaya Magatti; Children's Time: Leon Bauman; Preacher: Karl Shelly; Artwork: Megan Fleming; Musicians: Leon Bauman, Jim Kaufmann, Patricia Nuyken; Tech: Sean and Kiki Smuts; Pastoral Prayer: Moriah Hurst

	Religion of Creation	Religion of Empire
Purpose of religion	To be grounded in a relationship with the Creator God for the blessing and abundance of <i>all</i> people and <i>all</i> creation	Claims the God of creation but its purpose is to legitimate a god who provides blessing and abundance for <i>some</i> at the expense of <i>others</i>
Places of sacred encounter	Mountains, wilderness, rivers, direct encounter, table fellowship	Urban temple, mediated by priestly elite; urban royal rituals
God's "home"	Beyond and within creation and among people	In a temple near the palace in the royal city
Life's purpose	Praise God with joy in gratitude for God's gifts	Serve the gods through loyalty to empire
Relationship with others	Hospitality; love	Suspicion, violence
Relationship with land	Belongs to God; people are "tenants"	Belongs to king and those who can afford to buy it
Relationship with "enemies"	Love them	Destroy them

From "'Come Out My People!' God's Call out of Empire in the Bible and Beyond," by Wes-Howard-Brook (2010: Orbis Books)

Second-hour adult options:

1. Rewilding our yards at Phippen Roth's house (gather outside the front doors)
2. Creation Hymnsing (write down your favorites on the request cards!)

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