



Peace Sunday 2021

Defending Hope

September 19, 2021

Prelude *Jesu* ... arr. Jim Brickman

Welcome & Announcements

Introduction of Peace Sunday 2021 (*Mennonite Central Committee*)

Call to Worship/Reader's Theater

HYMN *For the healing of the nations* (HWB 367)

Children's Time

PRAYERS - *Our prayers today are from peace statements of churches in Korea, Colombia, Palestine, South Sudan, & Korean Christians in the U.S.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

Following Jesus, the Son of God,
whom we recognize as the almighty God,
we affirm our biblical and historical conviction
that the way of peace is active nonviolence
and love of our neighbors,
especially the weak, marginalized, poor, and our enemies.
We will not take part in armed activity
in search of peace
We invite our fellow citizens
to commit to nonviolence
in all their relationships.

I commit to cultivating
a personal and family spirituality
of love and nonviolence,
to respecting and protecting the dignity
of human life in all its forms,
as well as care for creation,

to practicing nonviolence in all my family relationships,
rejecting physical, verbal and psychological abuse.

I commit, out of love for my neighbor,
to resolve conflicts in a nonviolent way,
to constructing solidarity and working
for an alternate economy that promotes
humane, integral, sustainable development,
to not carrying weapons
or participating in military projects.

I commit to putting my abilities,
talents, gifts, times and resources
to the service of the construction
of a society of life, justice and peace
through active nonviolence.

--adapted from the public statement on the International Day of Peace, Sept 21, 2011, Mennonite Churches in Colombia

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is a time for repentance.

**REPENTANCE BRINGS US BACK
INTO THE COMMUNION OF LOVE
WITH EVERYONE WHO SUFFERS**

the prisoners, the wounded,
... the children who cannot live their childhood
and each one who mourns a dear one.

The communion of love says
to every believer in spirit and in truth:
**IF MY BROTHER [OR SISTER] IS A PRISONER,
I AM A PRISONER
IF [THEIR] HOME IS DESTROYED, MY HOME IS DESTROYED
WHEN MY BROTHER [OR SISTER] IS KILLED, I TOO AM KILLED.**

We face the same challenges
and share in all that has happened
and will happen.
**PERHAPS, AS INDIVIDUALS OR ... CHURCHES
WE WERE SILENT WHEN WE SHOULD HAVE
RAISED OUR VOICES TO CONDEMN
THE INJUSTICE AND SHARE IN THE SUFFERING.**

This is a time of repentance
for our silence, indifference, lack of communion,
... contradicting our witness and weakening our word.
**"[WE REPENT] FOR OUR CONCERN WITH OUR INSTITUTIONS, SOMETIMES AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR
MISSION,
THUS SILENCING THE PROPHETIC VOICE
GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT TO THE CHURCHES.**

The word of God is a word of love for all [God's] creation.

GOD IS NOT THE ALLY OF ONE AGAINST THE OTHER, NOR THE OPPONENT OF ONE IN THE FACE OF THE OTHER.

God is the Lord of all and loves all, demanding justice from all and issuing to all of us the same commandments: [that we love one another as God has loved us].

—*Kairos Palestine document, 5.2, 6.1*

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 61:1-3; 1 Peter 3:15-16*

Meditation

Music for Meditation *Praise Him! Praise Him!* ...Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sung response: *O Lord hear my(our) prayer* (HWB 348)

Farewell Blessing for Eldon & Jane Wagler

LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Let us pray for courage to be faithful witnesses for peace

Where there is division, we will defend the hope that is in us.

--READING: *Longing for Reconciliation: statement from Korean American Christians*

Where there is violence, we will defend the hope that is in us.

--READING: *South Sudan Council of Churches, South Sudan Civil Society Forum, and South Sudan Women's Coalition for Peace joint statement on the anniversary of Unity Government*

Where there is inequality, we will defend the hope that is in us.

--READING: *Kairos Palestine document, 6.1, 6.3, 9.1, 10*

Where there is war, we will defend the hope that is in us.

--READING from: *Bread and Peace Declaration (Columbia)*

(HWB 733) Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...

HYMN *You are salt for the earth* (HWB 226)

Benediction

Postlude... *remain seated to receive the postlude as a musical sending and blessing. The live stream will conclude at the end of the postlude. Sunday School begins at 10:45am.*

*Litanies, prayers, and photo from MCC Peace Sunday 2021 packet of worship resources.

Sound System: Micah Wenger

Live Stream Tech: Jonathan Wenger

Ushers: Jay Gehring, Dennis Boggs

Pianist: Shelley Kauffman

Worship Leader & Scripture Reader: Delon Martens

Reader's Theater: Delon & Joretta Martens, Reuben Wenger, Tonya Ramer Wenger

Children's Time: Jennalee Boggs

Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger
