



Week Four: The Encounter

August 4, 2024

WE GATHER

The chime is rung as an invitation to settle with gratitude into this moment, this place,
with these people and the God who gathers us in.

Prelude

Words for the Journey:

Opening Prayer (in unison)

*Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path,
inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.
Give us courage to leave the familiar, to venture out beyond our walls,
taking leave so that we will see with wider vision,
know with deeper appreciation, exist with expanded perception.*

Nudge and guide us, we pray. AMEN

HYMN *Longing for Light* VT 715

Prayer of Confession:

*Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
through what we have done and left undone.*

Forgive us when we turn away.

Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.

Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Peace of the Risen Christ is with you!

And also with you! (Fellowship Greeting)

HYMN *Jesus Christ Is Waiting* VT 287

WE LISTEN & PROCLAIM

Our Quest for Peace – Lighting the Peace Lamp

Children's Time of Unpacking

(with *You are Salt for the Earth* VT 297)

Scripture Reading: John 4:7-40

Sermon

WE RESPOND & SHARE OUR STORIES

Music for Meditation & Reflecting on the Journey – “*The Encounter*”

Prayers of the People (*with Lord’s Prayer*)

WE VENTURE FORTH

Announcements

HYMN *You Are Salt for the Earth* VT 297

Benediction

Postlude

*This eight-week QUEST worship series (July 14-Sept 1) is adapted from a four-week series developed by Worship Design Studio (www.worshipdesignstudio.com).

If you need a hearing assist device, please ask at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

The Nursery is typically staffed with a volunteer care provider during worship (and Sunday School as needed). Children are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary! Worship bags with drawing/coloring materials are provided at the back of the sanctuary.

If you’d like to be added to our all-church email list to receive prayer requests and announcements (typically 2 emails/week), please contact the church office or Pastor Tonya.

Sound: Earl Ediger
Livestream: Jay Gehring
Ushers: Don Wiens & Russell Goering
Nursery: Fred & Mary Wade
Organist: Pauline Buller
Worship Leader: Carol Moore
Scripture Reader: Shane Miller
Song Leader: Jon Miller
Children’s Time: Susan Combs
Lighting the Peace Lamp and Prayers of the People: Julie Goering
Sermon: Rebecca Yoder-Shetler

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!

Your offerings are received, with gratitude, in the offering box on the table at the back of the sanctuary. You can also now donate electronically on our website.

Thank you for your generosity shown in many ways!

TODAY:

- **Fellowship** with drinks in the Common Grounds room after worship.
- **Sunday School** @ 11:00am for children and youth
- **Today** – WDC annual assembly in Beatrice NE concludes with worship

LOOKING AHEAD:

- July 23-August 9 – Pastor Tonya sabbatical time away
- August 11 – FMC leads worship service at Mennonite Friendship Communities, 10:00am
- August 18 – Sr. Youth Kick-off event beginning with lunch
- August 25 – assemble MCC School Kits following worship (in the fellowship hall)



First Mennonite Church * Hutchinson KS

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385 Website: www.hutchfmc.org

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-2pm; Wed 10-1pm

Office email address: office@hutchfmc.org

Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger: tonya@hutchfmc.org

Pastor Jim Unruh: jhunruh.ju@gmail.com

Journaling Questions: "The Encounter"

Recall a time when you were in unfamiliar surroundings. *Were you excited to meet someone new? Or did you have uncomfortable or fearful feelings about an encounter?*

Have you had an encounter with other religious practices? *Do you know people who practice other faith traditions? What does your answer mean for your view of the world?*

Whether we like to admit it or not, people "not like us" or places "far from home" can bring up feelings of fear. *How do you think this affects our world? Can you imagine being*