

# QUEST:

*The Awakened Traveler*

## Week 7: Returning Home

*August 25, 2024*



### **WE GATHER**

The chime is rung as an invitation to pay attention to the presence of God with us.

Prelude

Words for the Journey: Psalm 36:7

Opening Prayer (in unison)

*Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path,  
inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.  
May we see that our home paths are the unfamiliar paths for someone else.  
With renewed compassion, open our hearts for hospitality,  
so that in our welcoming, we will grow together in peace,  
expand our chances for love, and deepen understanding right where we are.  
Nudge and guide us, we pray. AMEN*

HYMN *We Are People of God's Peace* VT 797

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 return to the familiar in fear rather than promise.  
Forgive us when we turn inward rather than become the hosts you call us to be.  
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 *Lead Me, Guide Me* VT 601

### **WE LISTEN & PROCLAIM**

Our Quest for Peace - Lighting the Peace Lamp  
Children's Time (with *You are Salt for the Earth* VT 297)

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 36:5-9; John 15:1-17*

Meditation

## **WE RESPOND & SHARE OUR STORIES**

Music for Meditation & Reflecting on the Journey – *“Returning Home”*  
Storytelling (Ken Neufeld)

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

Ministry Moment: Faithful Stewardship Coordination Team  
Western District Conference Assembly Reflections

## **WE VENTURE FORTH**

Announcements

HYMN *Move in Our Midst* VT 827

Benediction

Postlude

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\*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](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com)).

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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: Murray Reimer:  
Livestream: Jonathan Wenger  
Ushers: Marlene Thode & Diane Ziemer  
Nursery: No one assigned  
Organist: Pauline Buller  
Worship Leader: Joel Iwashige  
Scripture Reader: Delon Martens  
Song Leader: Pastor Tonya  
Children’s Time: Stephanie Gehring  
Sermon: Pastor Tonya Ramer Wenger

Ministry Moment: Faithful Stewardship Coordination Team (Allen Yoder)  
Western District Conference Assembly Sharing: Delon Martens, Ken and Carolee Neufeld

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## **Welcome!**

***We are so glad you are here!***

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***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!***

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### **TODAY:**

- **Fellowship** with drinks in the Common Grounds room after worship.
- **11:00am - pack MCC School Kits** in the basement fellowship hall

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

- September 1 – Sr. Youth Hamburger fundraiser (after worship)
- September 8 – Sunday school fall classes begin for all ages; Sunday School Teacher Blessing & Bible Dedication in Worship (*Kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade receive Bibles*)
- September 26 – Pastor Congregation Relations Committee, 4:00pm
- September 28 – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE**

- Western District Women & Girls Retreat – September 7-8 (reservations by August 30).
- Volunteer Pen Pal Opportunity with Offender Victim Ministries (OVM) – share letters, stories & encouragement. Talk with Pastor Jim for more information.



**First Mennonite Church \* Hutchinson KS**

***Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served***

Phone: 620-662-9385 Website: [www.hutchfmc.org](http://www.hutchfmc.org)

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Pastor Jim Unruh: [jhunruh.ju@gmail.com](mailto:jhunruh.ju@gmail.com)

## Journaling Questions: "Returning Home"

*What feels important to remember beyond this worship series that can enrich the journey of your life each day?*

*How might you continue to cultivate a 'traveler's mindset' of wonder & curiosity right where you are?*

*Have you felt a shift in some attitude about the world?*

*Is there something that is calling you because of this journey?*