



Third Sunday of Lent
Parable of the Fig Tree



"In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. ... As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow?" [Hannah Garrity]

Fig Leafing
Hannah Garrity
*paper lace
and watercolor*

First Mennonite Church
March 23, 2025

Everything [in] Between Lent Series | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

GATHERING & PRAISING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Worship is a place to rest.
We breathe deeply here.
We still our aching bones.
We sit in the quiet.
We surround ourselves with music.
Worship is a place to rest.
Worship is a place to grow.
We listen for God's word.
We invite it to challenge us.
We lean in with curiosity.
We ask questions.
Worship is a place to grow.
So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.
For where two or more are gathered,
God is always there.
Let us worship our gracious God.

Prayer of Invocation

HYMN *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* VT 170

Passing the Peace & Fellowship Greeting

HYMN *Come Away From Rush and Hurry* VT 9

Children's Time

My Coins Count Offering

CONFESSING & SEEKING RECONCILIATION

Call to Confession + Prayer of Confession

Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.
We stretch ourselves too thin.
We say "yes" to every invitation.
We run a million miles a minute.
We ignore your command to rest.
There are also days when we fail to act.
We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.
We find excuses and justify our inaction.
God, forgive our imbalance.
Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.
Show us how to do the same. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than the ocean.

God's love is wider than the sky.

We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

TELLING GOD'S STORY

HYMN *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* VT 608

Poem – *Slow Growth* (by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Luke 13:6-9*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

SHARING OUR STORIES & PRAYING

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

LIVING GOD'S STORY

HYMN *As You Go Out From Here* VT 841

Benediction

Postlude

Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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.

Sound: Jasper Nisly
Livestream: Jay Gehring
Ushers: Don Wiens & Marlene Thode
Nursery: Martha Miller
Organist: Pauline Buller

Song Leader: Bryan Kehr
Worship Leader: Anita Kehr
Prayer for Illumination & Scripture Reader: Delon Martens
Children's Time: Adrienne Derstine
Sermon, Poem & Prayers of the People: Tonya Ramer Wenger

TODAY:

Offerings to support FMC mission and ministry are received in the offering box at the back, or on our website.

Fellowship with drinks in Common Grounds Room

Sunday School for all ages at 11:00am

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **March 26 – Third Lenten Lunch** at Emanuel Lutheran (noon), 140 E 30th
- **March 26 – WNAF** – 5:30-6:30pm choir; 6-7pm dinner; 7-8pm children's choir and program with our pastors leading, "Reading Scripture Together in the Anabaptist Tradition," focused on scriptures in Luke.
- **March 30 - AED (automated external defibrillator) demonstration** after worship – an intergenerational activity, including blood pressure checks.
- **April 5 – 'Listening for a Word' Sermon Writing Retreat/Workshop** 10am-2:30pm. Led by Pastor Tonya & Anita Kehr. Please RSVP.
- **April 6** – Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus – 4:00pm, Tabor College
- **April 11-12** – Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale – volunteer to help



Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385

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

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