



First Mennonite Church of Halstead

August 17, 2025

*Good morning, and welcome!
God has invited us here; we are
at home in his presence.
Let us worship.*

Gathering Music – Cindy Siemens

Welcome and Announcements - Amy Buchholz

Centering/Special Music – Cindy Siemens

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout
aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

People: **Let us come before him with thanksgiving and
extol him music and song.**

Leader: For the Lord is the great God, the great King
above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the
earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

People: **The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands
formed the dry land.**

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel
before the Lord our Maker.

All: **For he is our God and we are the people of his
pasture, the flock under his care.**

*Praise Song – God of Grace and God of Glory – VT #716

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to thy con -
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de -

pow'r. Crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry, bring its bud to
 ways! From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to
 trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
 plore. Let the search for thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the
 faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the
 poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we
 ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing

fac - ing of this hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 liv - ing of these days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 miss thy king - dom's goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 thee whom we a - dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Chord symbols: G, D, G, Am7/C, G/D, D, G, D7, G, D7, G, Am7/C, G/D, D7, G

Praise Song – *Behold Our God* – Lyrics Projected

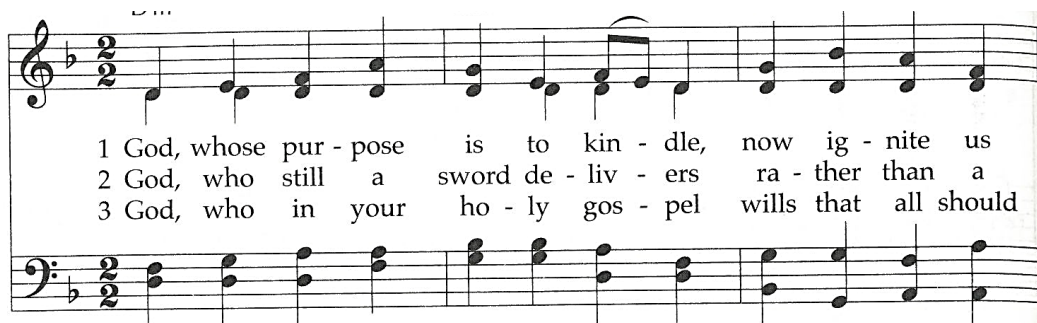
Offering & Offertory – Scholarship Fund

Scripture – Luke 12:49-56 (p. 1619)

Children's Time – Brocia Mueller

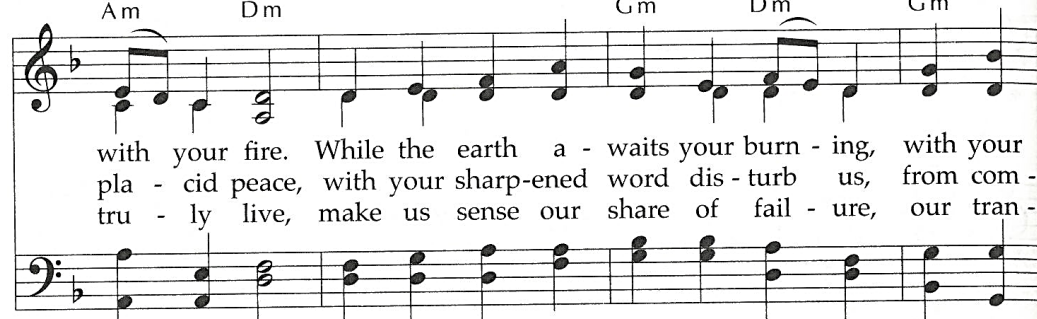
*A nursery is available in the basement for
children aged 4 and younger following Children's Time.*

Worship Song – God, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle – VT #152



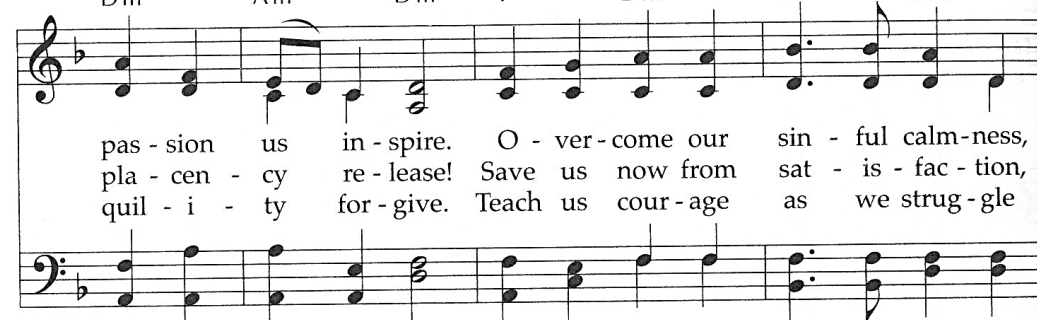
1 God, whose pur - pose is to kin - dle, now ig - nite us
 2 God, who still a sword de - liv - ers ra - ther than a
 3 God, who in your ho - ly gos - pel wills that all should

(F#m) (Bm) (Em) (Bm) (Em)
 Am Dm Gm Dm Gm



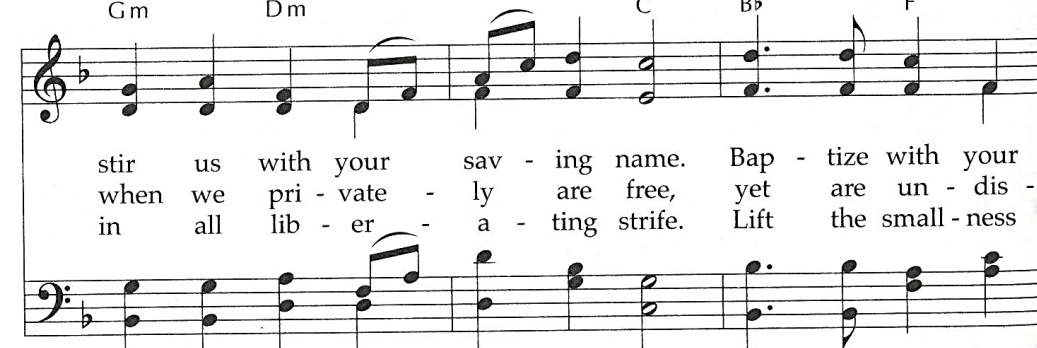
with your fire. While the earth a - waits your burn - ing, with your
 pla - cid peace, with your sharp - ened word dis - turb us, from com -
 tru - ly live, make us sense our share of fail - ure, our tran -

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm) (G) (Bm)
 Dm Am Dm F Dm Bb Dm

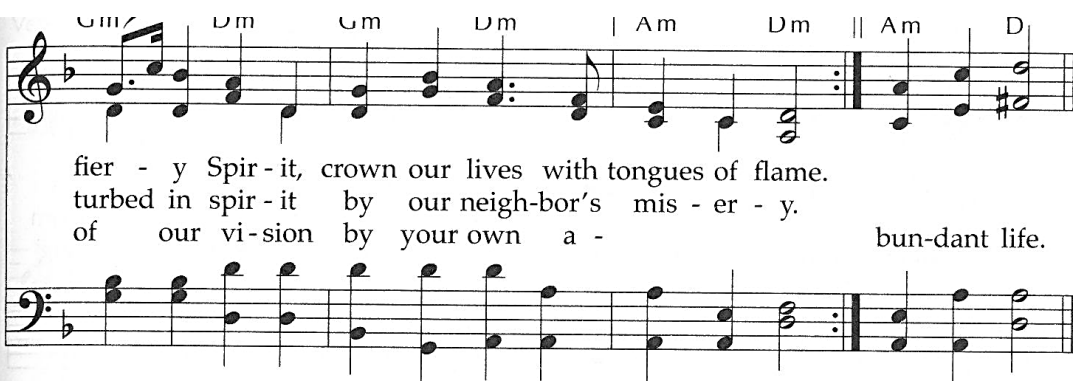


pas - sion us in - spire. O - ver - come our sin - ful calm - ness,
 pla - cen - cy re - lease! Save us now from sat - is - fac - tion,
 quil - i - ty for - give. Teach us cour - age as we strug - gle

(Em) (Bm) (A) (G) (D)
 Gm Dm C Bb F



stir us with your sav - ing name. Bap - tize with your
 when we pri - vate - ly are free, yet are un - dis -
 in all lib - er - a - ting strife. Lift the small - ness



fier - y Spir - it, crown our lives with tongues of flame.
 turbed in spir - it by our neigh - bor's mis - er - y.
 of our vi - sion by your own a - bun - dant life.

Worship Song - Will You Come and Follow Me - VT #540

1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
 5 Christ, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

(A sus) (A7) (D) (A7) (Bm) (G)
 C sus C7 F C7 Dm Bb

your name? Will you go where you don't know and nev - er
 your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er
 your name? Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er
 your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er

(Em7) (G/A) (D) (Em7) (G)
 Gm7 Bb/C F Gm7 Bb

be the same? Will you let my love be shown,
 be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
 be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean,
 be the same? Will you use the faith you've found
 be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go

will you let my name be known, will you let my
 should your life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 and do such as this un - seen, and ad - mit to
 to re - shape the world a - round, through my sight and
 where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

(A7) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 C7 Dm Gm C7 F

life be grown in you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 what I mean in you and you in me?
 touch and sound in you and you in me?
 live and grow in you and you in me.

Pastoral Prayer – Pastor Steve

Message – *Not the Jesus You Expected* – Pastor Steve

Response Song – *Spirit of the Living God* – Lyrics Projected

Prayer

*Sending Song – I Have Decided to Follow Jesus – VT #443

C

English: 1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus.
 2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me;
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low.

Navajo: 1 ʔ Shí k'ad Je - sus bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,
 2 Christ éí shi - ląq - ji', nee - ni shi - kéé - dęę',
 3 A - zhá t' áá sáhi ndi, bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,

F C

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus.
 the world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me;
 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low.

ʔ Shí k'ad Je - sus bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,
 Christ éí shi - ląq - ji', nee - ni shi - kéé - dęę',
 A - zhá t' áá sáhi ndi, bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus—
 the world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me—
 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low—

ʔ Shí k'ad Je - sus bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,
 Christ éí shi - ląq - ji', nee - ni shi - kéé - dęę',
 A - zhá t' áá sáhi ndi, bi - kéé' yi - sháat doo,

no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.
 T' áá' éí doo - da, T' áá' éí doo - da.

no turn-ing back,
 T' áá' éí doo - da,

***Benediction**

***Postude** – Cindy Siemens

*Please stand if you are able

CHURCH CALENDAR

Aug. 18	6:00 p.m.	Nurture Ministry meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council meeting
Aug. 19	7:45 a.m.	Early Birds Breakfast
	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Team meeting
	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting
Aug. 20	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Can You Help Give a Ride? The Care Team is putting together two helpful lists—and you're invited to be part of this ministry of kindness. We're looking for people who would be willing to: 1) Drive someone to a doctor's appointment when needed and/or 2) Offer a ride to church on Sundays for someone in your area. If you're willing to help with one—or both—there's a sign-up sheet in the hall. Even occasional availability can make a big difference. Thank you for being the hands and feet (and wheels!) of Christ in our community.

The Hospitality Ministry invites you to join us for Last Sunday Potlucks on the last Sunday of most every month. The first one is coming up in two weeks on August 31. Bring a dish or two to share and join your church family for a meal and fellowship. Feel free to invite others you interact with throughout the week to join as well!

MCC's School Kit Challenge is back, and we are joining the challenge! School kits provide essential supplies that families navigating war, displacement or financial struggles would not be able to buy otherwise. MCC hopes to provide 25,000 school kits for 25,000 kids this summer. Items to include in the kit: **4 spiral notebooks** (70 pages each); **8 new, unsharpened pencils**; **1 ruler** (flat, good quality, must indicate 30 cm); **12 colored pencils** (in original packaging); **1 large eraser**; **4 new blue or black ballpoint pens**; **1 small, all-metal pencil sharpener**. Bring your items and place them in the box under the coat racks. We will dedicate all the school kits on Christian Education Sunday on September 14.

The Grant Recipient sign in the church yard is for the grant that VBS received from the Halstead Community Foundation. The grant helps provides supplies for Imagination Station and the Bible Buddies that are sent home each day with each child. We are thankful for the Foundation's support of the VBS program!

The 2025 - 2026 school year has begun! With contributions from Halstead congregations, the Interfaith Council has donated \$2135 to the Halstead / Bentley School District for school supplies for families in need. Every year we hear from the School District how important this donation is and how thankful they are that Halstead congregations care for the students of our schools. Our congregation contributed \$860. A big thank you to all who donated to this important community project.

August 29 is the due date for registering for Western District Women & Girls Retreat! Join us at Camp Mennoscah September 6 & 7. Register and pay online at westerndistrictwomeninmission.org or print out the registration form online and send in your payment to the address on the form. This year's theme is Courageous Women of the Bible with Katherine Goerzen and Laura Goerzen as our speakers. GIRLS AGE 8 and up are welcome to attend with an adult. Questions? Email westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.

WDC Mustard Seed grants are back! Does your congregation have a great idea for how to reach out to your neighbors, but are low on funds? Apply for a Mustard Seed grant. See the link

<https://mennowdc.org/wdc-mustard-seed-grant/>. The WDC Resource Commission would love to support your great ideas that may ultimately help plant seeds of faith!

Recycling opportunities at MCC in North Newton. MCC accepts the following materials for recycling: cardboard, books, and paper. We also recycle soft plastics (any plastic packaging that you can stretch with your finger, including Amazon mailers and bubble wrap). We also accept and process wearable clothing, shoes and purses/bags. However, it is best to donate those items to an Et Cetera Shop first, if possible. When you arrive at MCC, follow the signs toward the warehouse and you'll find bins outside under the covered roof for each recyclable item. Questions can be directed to duaneunruh@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.

Bethel College Updates: Adults 60 and over are invited to attend Bethel College Life Enrichment this fall from August 27 to November 19 on Wednesday mornings in the Krehbiel Auditorium. The fall schedule has been released and is available on the table in the foyer.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Pray for Debbie Nightingale as she has back surgery on Tuesday.
- Pray for a speedy healing for Edith Unruh who fractured her ankle.
- Pray for Lois Loflin's sister, Janice Gingerich, who is dealing with health issues.
- Pray for Carrol Flickinger's niece who has begun chemo for cancer.
- Pray for Sara Dick's sister-in-law, Cindy, who has stage 4 cancer in her brain and back.
- Pray for Jessica Dyck's daughter's grandmother who is fighting cancer.
- Pray for Mick and Mary Bean and their family as they mourn the loss of their son's best friend.

- Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregations in pastoral transition, for candidates considering a call to ministry, and for congregational leaders as they nurture church life and witness in times of change and uncertainty.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Pamela Obonde, who has joined the administrative team of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM), as a church and donor relations coordinator. AIMM and Mission Network collaborate closely in ministries on the African continent. Pray for Pamela, who is based in Manitoba, Canada, as she builds bridges across agencies, cultures and nations

SUNDAY INFORMATION

NURSERY TODAY	Kaitlen Ortman, Jason Mueller, Emmit Jacob
PIANIST/ORGANIST	Cindy Siemens
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	
Care Portal	\$1,200.00
Church Budget	1,375.00
MCUSA	50.00
Neighbors	1,367.00
Western District Conference	150.00
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY (Old Settlers Community Service)	168
OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY	MC USA
NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY	Marilyn Mueller, Sara Smoker, Kalyn Ortman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget Balance @1-1-25	239.32
Jan.-June Receipts	73,191.58
Jan.-June Expenses	(71,367.34)
Budget Balance @6-30-25	2,063.56
July Receipts	17,187.99
July Expenses	(11,521.35)
Budget Balance @7-31-25	7,730.20

Why Do We Do That?

*A four-week sermon series
starting in September*

Every question in this series came from our own congregation:

- Why do we stand to sing but sit for Scripture?
- Why light candles?
- Why say things together in unison?
- Why pass the plates instead of using a box?
- Why do we do communion the way we do?

Join us this September as we uncover the meaning behind the postures we take, the words we speak, the music we hear, and the rhythms that shape our worship. Every part of our service—spoken, sung, silent, or shared—points us to the God we gather to praise.

