

**THE KINGDOM
OF GOD
IS LIKE A
MUSTARD SEED**

LUKE 13:18



**First Mennonite
Church
of Halstead**

September 7, 2025

Welcome, friends — new and familiar! The psalmist reminds us: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). May our hearts be open today to God's presence, peace, and purpose.

Gathering Music - Kent Dick

O God Beyond All Praising - Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements - Gregg Dick

Centering Music - Kent Dick

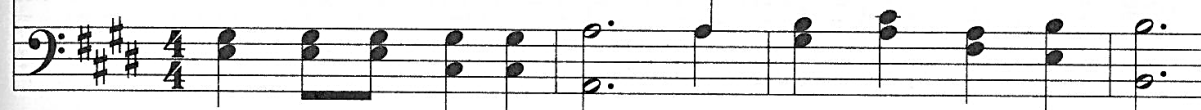
O Lord You're Beautiful - Keith Green

***Call to Worship** - Pastor Steve

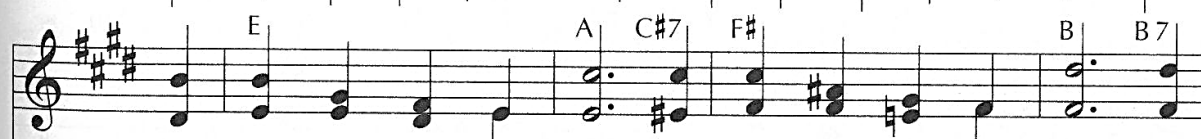
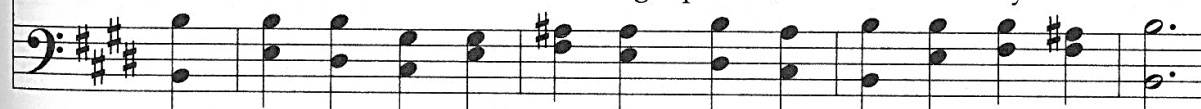
Song - Crown Him with Many Crowns - VT #408



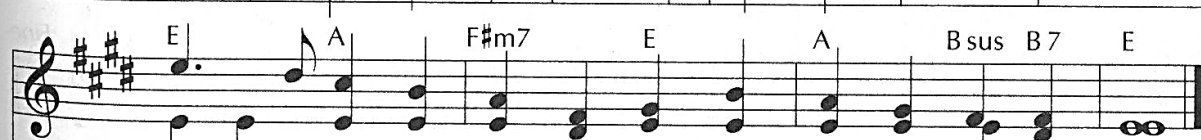
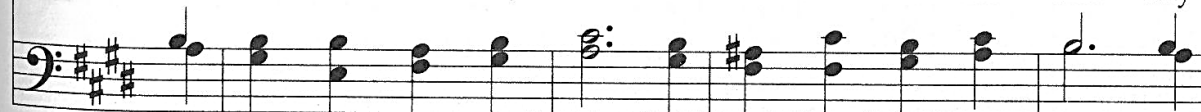
1 Crown him with man-y crowns, the Lamb up - on the throne.
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave
 3 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side.
 4 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scep - ter sways
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! how the heav'n-ly an-them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 from pole to pole that wars may cease, ab-sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll-ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 His glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight, but
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc-ed feet fair
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me. Thy



hail him as the match-less king, through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 down-ward bend their burn-ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 flow'rs of par - a - dise ex-tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.



Song – The Church's One Foundation – VT #397

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 2 The church in every nation is one through all the earth;
 3 Still, schisms, tribulation, and hatred fuel our war;
 4 Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three in One,

we are a new creation by water and the Word.
 our charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth;
 we wait the consummation of peace forevermore.
 and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and taught us what perfect love can be;
 one name together blessing, one holy food we share,
 The saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Oh, happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,

through life and death he sought us, and rose to set us free.
 to one hope ever pressing, at one in work and prayer.
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternal ly.

(F#) (G) (D) (A)
 G Ab Eb Bb

(D) (G) (D) (Bm) (Em)
 Eb Ab Eb Cm Fm

(D) (G maj7) (Em7) (Asus) (A) (D)
 Eb Abmaj7 Fm7 Bbsus Bb Eb

Offering & Offertory – Western District Conference

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord - Roger Wilson

Kent Dick

Scripture – Luke 13:18-21 (p. 1620)

Children's Time – Casey Jacob

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

Song – God of Wonders – VT #178

Dsus Em7 C2 Dsus Em7
 1 Lord of all cre - a - tion, of wa-ter, earth, and
 2 Ear - ly in the morn - ing, I will cel - e - brate the

C2 Dsus Em7 C2
 sky, light. the heav - ens are your tab - er - nac - le.
 When I stum - ble in the dark - ness

Dsus Em7 C2
 Glo - ry to the Lord on high!
 I will call your name by night.

Refrain G Dsus D Am7
 God of won - ders be - yond our gal - ax - y, you are ho - ly,

C2 G
 ho - ly. The u - ni - verse de - clares your maj - es -

Dsus D Am7 C2 Last time to Coda ♯
 ty; you are ho - ly, ho - ly.

C2

1

Lord of heav-en and earth, Lord of heav-en and earth.

2

C2

Am7

C2

Lord of heav-en and earth. Hal-le-lu - jah to the Lord of

Am7

C2

heav-en and earth. Hal-le-lu - jah to the Lord of heav-en and earth.

Am7

C2

Hal-le-lu - jah to the Lord of heav-en and earth. *To refrain*

⌘ Coda

Am7

C2

Repeat as desired

G2

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

Song – You Are Salt for the Earth – VT #297



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple,
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple,
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple,
 4 We are a bless'd and a pil - grim peo - ple,



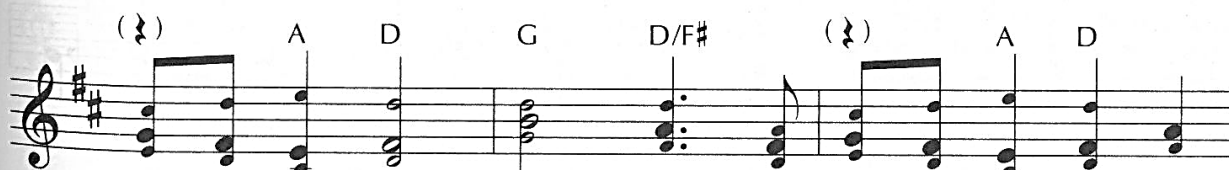
salt for the king-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
 light for the ci - ty of God! Shine so ho - ly and
 bring forth the king-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
 bound for the king-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and



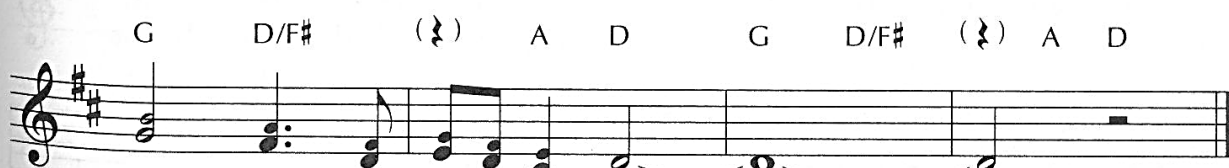
life, O peo - ple: life in the king-dom of God!
 bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king-dom of God!
 seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king-dom of God!
 love our home - land: love is the king-dom of God!



Bring forth the king-dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king-dom of peace. Bring forth the king-dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

Congregational Prayer – Pastor Steve

Message – Pastor Steve

God's Kingdom Is Not What We Expect

Response Song – *From the Inside Out* – Lyrics Projected

Prayer

***Sending Song - *In Christ Alone* – Lyrics Projected**

***Benediction**

***Postlude – Kent Dick**

Jesus Shall Reign – Lani Smith

*Please stand if you are able

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sept. 8	9:30 a.m.	Women's Mission Society
Sept. 9	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting
Sept. 3	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club
	6:00 p.m.	Kids Club Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team practice
Sept. 14	10:30 a.m.	Christian Education Sunday
	12:00 p.m.	Potluck
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates! A Missions Sunday will be in two weeks on Sept. 21, the Hog Roast will be Oct. 26 from 5-7 p.m. and the Mission Supper will be Nov. 15.

The roses on the organ this morning are in honor of Carrol Flickinger's 91st birthday on Sept. 8 and Bill Ewert's 94th birthday on Sept. 9. Happy Birthday to Carrol and Bill!

Kids Club has begun! We will be meeting every Wednesday until Oct. 22 from 5-6 p.m. with supper following. If you know someone with kids aged 3 through 6th grade, encourage them to join us. Contact Kaitlen or Melanie with any questions.

Christian Education Sunday is next Sunday, Sept. 14. This special morning will celebrate Christian Education at FMC, commission our teachers for the coming year, and dedicate the school kits for MCC. A potluck with games will follow. Please bring a dish or two if you're able and plan to join us. If you are still gathering school kit supplies, each kit includes: 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.

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will resume meeting next week on September 14 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the church. Junior High is for students in grades 6-8 and Senior High is for students in grades 9-12. Youth group meetings are typically the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Plan to join and bring a friend!

All women are invited to participate in a Women's Bible Study that will begin meeting on September 14 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting times are typically the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month with meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in October. Priscilla Shirer's *The Armor of God* will be used for the Bible study and includes video teachings and a workbook for personal study. Workbooks will be available to you at no charge. Please let Kaitlen or Melanie know if you're interested TODAY so we can get books ordered.

Adult Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6:45 p.m. following a supper at 6:00 p.m. This year we will be using Gospel in Life, a DVD series by Timothy Keller. This study explores how the gospel shapes every part of our lives—our hearts, our communities, and even the way we engage with the world. Each session includes teaching, Scripture, and discussion that helps us consider how the good news of Jesus transforms both our daily living and our witness to others. We invite you to join us for this time of learning, reflection, and fellowship. Whether you have been part of Bible studies for years or are just beginning, this is a wonderful opportunity to grow together in Christ. Come and be encouraged as we discover how the gospel truly is “good news for all of life.”

A Sunday focused on missions and one of our mission partners—Joseph and Rachel Givens—will be held on Sunday, September 21. Weldon Martens, a former pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite in Whitewater, will bring the morning message. A sandwich lunch will follow the worship service after which Martens will report on his Just Peace Pilgrimage to Calais, France, where he spent time with the Givens family. Come learn more about the work the Givens family is doing in France as they provide shelter and support to migrating people seeking refuge as they journey to England.

From the Newton Et Cetera shop: The second Saturday sale is Sept. 13, where red tags are \$.50 and green, yellow and purple/pink tags are 50% off. The store will be open late until 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18.

The Gospel Echoes Team will be holding their annual prison ministry banquet on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantview Activity Center, 5015 S. Dean Rd., Hutchinson. The evening will include a home-style dinner, music by the Harvest and Mercy Road teams and a prison ministry presentation. For tickets, contact Dale and Miriam Lehman at 620-694-9823.

Mennonite Church of the Servant in Wichita invites folks to join a fall book study focusing on Drew Strait’s book, *Strange*

Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism. We will be meeting on zoom every Wednesday evening in October at 7 p.m. If you would like to join these sessions, email Itschlosser@yahoo.com and a zoom link will be sent to you at the end of September. We welcome everyone to be a part of this timely study and conversation.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet will be held on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton, KS). Peter Buller, recent Bethel College graduate, will speak about his experience this summer at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonites in the world. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Schwisters. RSVP by October 11 to Dave Stucky at bigdstucky@gmail.com or text or call 620-532-4408. The cost of the banquet is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at www.swissmennonite.org.

Bethel College Updates: Fri., Sept. 12 – Bethel College music faculty recital, 7 p.m., with Christina Liu, piano, Holly Swartzendruber, voice, Kris Hilding, viola, Chris Miertschin, brass, and Russell Adrian, piano, with special guest Will Wiebe-Friesen, organ; Administration Building chapel with a reception to follow.

Tues., Sept. 16 – Bethel College Chamber Orchestra concert, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall. **Now through Sept. 25** in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College – “Decorator,” works by Jordan Buschur. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

Camp Mennoscah Updates: Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat, October 10-12, is open. Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. The link to register was emailed with the bulletin packet. **Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting** will be held at Hope Mennonite Church (868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita) on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. A silent auction for a few items will also take place. **The next tee shirt comforter** will be (silent) auctioned off at Bethel College's Fall Fest on October 4. **Volunteers are needed for groundwork.** This could be mowing, trail maintenance, string

trimming, poison ivy and sticker plant control, or likely any number of other things. Contact us at 620-297-3290 to discuss opportunities!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregation members serving on our conference Executive Board, Commissions and other committees and task forces, as they discern vision and offer counsel for WDC ministries.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the Bokgoni Sporting Club, in Francistown, Botswana, which offers young people an alternative to life on the streets by providing a healthy environment, training in life-skills and an opportunity to play sports. The women's netball team is planning a community day this month to strength relationships between neighbors.

SUNDAY INFORMATION

NURSERY TODAY	Jason Smoker, Raquel Wilcox, Josie Whorton
PIANIST/ORGANIST	Kent Dick
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	
Birthday	\$18.00
Church Budget	2,694.16
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	88
OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY	Hesston College
NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY	Jason Mueller, Kaitlen Ortman, Eli Wilcox