

UNIVERSITY MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday October 4, 2020 Virtual Worship Service



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Welcome and intro to Zoom worship – Ben Wideman

Prelude video – Bach’s French Suite V: Allemande
played by Ruth Parrish Sauder

Call to worship – Ben Wideman

Lighting the peace lamp

Offering prayer

Children’s time – Ben Wideman

Scripture – (read during sermon) Matt 21:33-46
read by Rick Stehouwer

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ Those listening said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

*“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;*

*this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes”?*

*Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one
who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush
anyone on whom it falls.’*

*When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him,
but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.*

Sermon - A conversation between Pastor Kate,
Sophia Weidner, and Karl Bartsch

Confession - *Prayer for a Broken World* by Masi Asare

Communion - *Mercy Now* instrumental by Mike Bratt

Communion Prayer

May God be with us.

God is with us.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and good that we give you our praise, Holy One,
You led Moses, Miriam, Aaron, and the Israelites out of enslavement
to liberation and into a land of abundance.

**You called forth the prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, Amos and
Hosea, to again spread your word of hope and peace rooted in
justice.**

Throughout time you offered life in abundance,
life and abundance to be shared with all.

Still your people turned away from you as we do too.

But you remained faithful and sent Jesus to us:
Born in Palestine, and then a refugee in Egypt.
Raised in Nazareth, baptized in the Jordan.
He called his disciples to journey with him.

**He rejoiced with all who rejoiced and wept with all who wept.
He healed those who were broken.**

He spoke your word of hope.

He worked wonders to reveal your glory,
and he offered your peace to all.

For all you have done, we join in thanksgiving and offer our praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God
Source of life and love,
Blessed is the One who comes to bring your peace with justice to
earth.**

On the last night Jesus spent with his friends,
he took a tradition of the people of that land
and transformed it into something new.

He took unleavened bread, and wine, the common food of the
common people,

And shared it, as a reminder for all time that the sacrifice of his life is
a gift for all of humanity.

**By remembering Jesus in this way,
we claim our common heritage,
we join in solidarity with all across the ages,
we stand together with all who have been on the margins.**

On this day we also stand with those who are struggling:
the people of Somalia embroiled in the ravages of civil war,
the people of Palestine and Israel who seek a just peace,
our Indigenous brothers and sisters longing for healing and hope.

Together let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit upon us and these gifts,
that all who share in this meal
may be the body of Christ:

disciples who believe in peace with justice;
disciples rooted in love;
disciples committed to Jesus' call to reconciliation based in mercy.
Amen.

Sharing time – Pastor Kate Heinzl

Announcements/birthdays/introduction of visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Wednesday sharing and prayer time - Join us Wednesdays at noon for a time of scripture, prayer, and an opportunity to share more fully with one another. The Zoom meeting link will be distributed via our email list.

If you're interested in attending the **mindful meditation sessions** on Monday evenings and Thursday or Friday mornings, contact [Kate](#), as times and dates vary.

UMC leadership team is accepting recommendations for organizations and projects to bless with our reserve funds (see Rick Stehouwer email 9/29). [Click here](#) to access the form to nominate an organization.

Out of the Cold - University Baptist and Brethren Church is hosting OOTC October 1-19. They are looking for others to help be evening greeters and provide dinner and breakfast. [Click here](#) to sign up to help.

Announcements (cont.)

All the Churches Around Us is a 3-part series led by Philip Jenkins and offered by St. Andrew's Episcopal church on October 4, 11, 18. [Click here](#) for more information and to sign up.

Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) is partnering with UMC, inviting us to get our hands dirty and help care for creation locally by doing stream restoration work at Walnut Springs Park. All ages and abilities welcomed to help. Stay tuned for more details.

Financial struggles? - As you continue to live into the realities of COVID-19, please let Kate or one of the [elders](#) know if you are living with financial uncertainty and could use some help. UMC, in partnership with [Everence](#), has funds available to help those in need.

Staying connected - The elders encourage each person/family in the directory to check in this week with the person/family **TWENTY-SIX** entries directly following you in the directory listing. The check-in could be via a phone call, video chat, email, or text. Note, persons near the end of the alphabet would rotate back to the top as needed.

UMC YouTube channel: [Check out our YouTube channel](#) to see our worship services, short meditations by Kate, and more! We will regularly post new content, so stop by often to stay connected.

Church Information

www.universitymennonite.org

1606 Norma St., State College, PA 16801; (814) 234-2039

Pastor: Kate Heinzl

Submissions for bulletin: umcbulletin@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN INCLUSION: Fridays at noon (for virtual services)

Pastor: Kate Heinzl kate@universitymennonite.org 717-606-2909

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Elders

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Cong. Chair: Rick Stehouwer rsc15@psu.edu 814.883.3503

Asst. Chair: Cathy Bresee cbs4@psu.edu 814.933.8005

University Mennonite Church's safe-child policy demonstrates our commitment to the physical safety and the spiritual growth of all our children and youth, ages birth to 18, as well as to our volunteers who care for them. The complete policy is posted in the lobby entrances and in the nursery room.

To participate in the UMC email list, sign up by sending an email to:

university-mennonite-sharing-list+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Zoom church services are being recorded and published on our [YouTube channel](#)