



Christ Heals a Blind Man

Photo Credit – Damian Entwistle
Burgos Cathedral, Spain, lower cloister

UNIVERSITY MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday May 9, 2021

Welcome and intro to Zoom worship – Ben Wideman

Prelude video – *What's Going On*, cover by
Playing for Change: Songs around the World

Call to worship – Leland Glenna

Peace lamp

Prayer and offertory – HWB 343 *My hope is built on nothing less*

Children's time – Joel Weidner

Confession and forgiveness

God of goodness and lovingkindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. Although we have great privilege, we have turned away from the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you.

Scripture – John 9 read by Leland Glenna

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made

mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that

anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Introduction of guest speaker – Pastor Kate

**Sermon – Reverend Conrad Kanagy from
Elizabethtown Mennonite Church**

Sermon response – VT 43 God, be the love

Sharing time – Pastor Kate

Announcements, birthdays, & introduction of visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Adult Sunday School – Today our guest speaker, Conrad Kanagy, will lead a discussion during the Sunday School hour. On May 17, we will hold a congregational meeting following worship and there will not be regular Sunday school.

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.

Announcements (cont.)

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.

Walnut Springs habitat restoration work continues on Thursday, May 13 from 2-4 pm. Mark your calendars!

Cultural Conversations – *Powerful Voices: Asian Americans in Centre County Speak Out*, Monday May 17 from 7-8 pm on Zoom. “*We’ve got to come out of our silos and talk about what’s real for people outside our demographics.*” - Shih-In Ma, moderator of *Powerful Voices* conversation. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).

Plowshare Produce welcomes everyone to join them for weekly Volunteer Thursdays beginning April 15. Each day, there will be a variety of farm tasks from 9:30-12, followed by a simple, outdoor gluten-free and vegan lunch. Bring your mask, water, garden gloves and raingear (if needed), and come for as long as you like. Please let us know by Wednesday evening if you are coming, by emailing [HERE](#).

Out of the Cold - UMC is scheduled to host OOTC in our building June 14-27. Consider how you might support this important work of providing meals and fellowship with the vulnerable in our community experiencing homelessness.

Calling All Bikers - You are invited to join 19 riders from the **Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions** (July 24-28) for the last segment of their 2-month trip ride across the country, promoting climate solutions. You will ride 326 miles along the renowned Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal Towpath, culminating in the last day event in Washington DC, visiting senators and representatives to express how the journey affected your concern for climate change. CSCS Director of Pastoral Ecology, Doug Kaufman, will lead reflections during this 5-day journey, as the group learns together what it means to faithfully respond to the climate crisis. Interested? Sign up [HERE](#).

Announcements (cont.)

Everence Updates - In 2020, our church was able to increase financial aid to Park Forest Preschool by \$1,750 and to Bridge of Hope by \$500 because of Everence matching grants. Each year Everence calculates how much grant money we receive. The amount is determined by the percentage of persons in our church who use an Everence product and how active the advocate is. Last year and this year the total was \$2,250. Because we did not use these matching funds for any individual emergency needs in the congregation, they were allocated to the above programs. Please contact me if you have any questions about this or questions about Everence Financial. I will be introducing information/products they offer in future announcements. Blessings, Doug Yoder, Everence advocate. dv83yoder@gmail.com, (814) 933-6896.

Missed worship? Our Zoom worship services are recorded and can be watched on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Need help? We are a community with talents, tools, and a willingness to serve each other. If you need some extra help - gathering groceries, doing yard work, etc., let Kate know. There are some here who might be able to lend a hand.

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.

Your offerings support UMC – Don’t forget to support UMC with your financial gifts during this time of remote gatherings. You can make your offering the following ways:

- Mail a check to the church to the attention of our treasurer, 1606 Norma Street, State College PA, 16801
- [Donate on the church website](#)
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like [Zelle](#)

Questions? Contact Jim Rosenberger JLRosenberger@gmail.com



Mennonite Central Committee Announcements

Glen Guyton has been reappointed for a second three-year term as executive director of Mennonite Church USA. Read about his goals and accomplishments here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/glen-second-term>

Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War

Mennonite Church USA profiled Amy Yoder McGloughlin – mom, pastor and peacemaker with Christian Peacemaking Teams – as part of its Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War initiative. Read about Yoder McGloughlin’s journey in “From Palestine to Pennsylvania, peacemaking is not passive.”

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/palestine-to-pa>

MenoTicias

Carlos Romero shared about his experience as the first Latino executive director of Mennonite Education Agency and about his anti-racism work in the education system in a recent interview. Read more. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/table-menno-education> En español:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/por-ampliar-la-mesa>

Menno Snapshots

Voices Together was made with children in mind, too! Read Ingrid and Anneli Loepp Thiessen’s blog, “Introducing Voices Together to Children: Ten ideas,” for examples of how to integrate Voices Together into children’s programming.

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/vt-children-ten-ideas>

When women get involved with peace ... "We believe that if women can be involved in working for peace, we can have peace in our country," says Anna Johari Etabo. When a dangerous conflict broke out in her village between a chief and a fisherman, Anna and the team of female peacebuilders stepped in to defuse the tension. [Watch the video to see how the conflict was resolved.](#)

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

www.universitymennonite.org

Pastor: Kate Heinzl

Submissions for bulletin: bulletin@universitymennonite.org

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Fridays at noon (for virtual services)

Staff and Volunteer Leadership

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

Worship Coordinator:

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Elders

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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.

Our church maintains a Google Group email list to keep members informed about prayer requests and happenings in the community. Join the email list by sending an email to:

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

Zoom church services are being recorded and published on our [YouTube channel](#). You can also view service videos and listen to audio recordings at on our website at:

<http://www.universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings-current/>