

ERB STREET MENNONITE CHURCH
Sunday, September 17, 2023

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship **VT 87**

Left: O praise the gracious power that tumbles walls of fear,

Right: and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near.

Left: O praise persistent truth that opens fisted minds,

Right: and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that binds.

Left: O praise the tide of grace that laps at every shore

Right: with visions of a world at peace, no longer bled by war.

Leader: O praise the living Christ with faith's bright songful voice!

All: Announce the gospel to the world and in this truth rejoice.

Opening Prayer

Gathering Hymn *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* **VT 4**

Story Circle *A Dividing Wall*

Hymn *Christ Has Broken Down the Wall* **VT 174**

Silent Prayer of Attention

Scripture Readings *Ephesians 1:10, 2:10-22*

Scripture Response *Sing with Joy to the Author* **VT 430**
Stanza B

Sermon *The Church: Peace as Divine Junk Art*

Hymn of Response *O Praise the Gracious Power* **VT 87**

Offertory

Commissioning for New Elder

VT 965

People: Empowering God,

throughout the ages,

you have called members of the church to develop gifts and skills for your service.

Thank you for equipping these leaders among us.

Fill them with the love of Christ

and empower them with your Holy Spirit.

Bless them with joy in the work of our shared ministry.

Henry: I pray for wisdom and grace in this calling of being an Elder.

May I use the authority entrusted to me with confidence and humility.

Together may we grow into the mind and spirit of Christ through our service.

All: For the gifts that the Spirit nurtures within us and the ministries to which we are each called, thanks be to God! Amen.

Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Hymn of Sending *May You Be Rooted and Grounded* **VT 396**

Benediction

Postlude