

ERB STREET MENNONITE CHURCH
Sunday, September 8, 2024

Prelude *Bist Du Bei Mir* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather as God's church.

People: We come together to worship.

Leader: We gather to hear God's Word.

People: We come together to learn.

Leader: We gather as God's family.

People: We come together to share our lives and to share God's goodness with others.

Leader: People of God, come.

All: Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Gathering Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* **VT 126**

Story Circle *Blessing of the Backpacks*

Introduction to SS classes and teachers

Litany of Blessing for New Sunday School Year

Hymn *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside* **VT 514**

Worship Music *Sound the Trumpet* H. Purcell

Offertory Prayer*

Silent Prayer of Attention

Scripture Readings Mark 4:26-29; Luke 8:4-8

Sung Scripture Response *Kyrie eleison* **VT 147**

Sermon *Growing: Hosts and Promoters*

Hymn of Response *You Are Salt for the Earth* **VT 297**

Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Hymn of Sending *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* **VT 812**

Benediction

Postlude *Peace Like a River* arr. J. Curnow

Coffee and visiting in the Fellowship Hall

followed by Welcome Lunch.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leader: Fred Loganbill

Accompanist: Joanne Bender

Song Leader: Karin Bileski

Worship Music: Tom Bileski

Debra Lacoste

Story Circle: Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Scripture Reader: Jeanette Kennel

Sermon: Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Congregational Prayer: Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Sound: Geoff Vanderkooy

Tech Host: Eric Wildfong

Ushers: Krista Steinmann and Lena Santomero

Greeters: Henry & Leonora Paetkau

Mary Brubaker-Zehr

* Offering may be placed in the box at the back of the sanctuary or by other means as listed in the bulletin.

Litany of Blessing for Students and Teachers

Ali: On this day of new beginnings, we celebrate our children and the joy of learning. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and questions they bring to our congregation.

Fred: We are thankful for educational opportunities for adults and all ages. Our learning never ends.

Scott: As we begin another year of Christian education and formation, we invite God's blessing upon all who teach and learn together.

Congregation: As teachers and learners, we are on a lifelong journey of faith. God keeps calling us to be a community that brings insight, healing and hope to the world.

Fred: We give thanks for all of the children, youth and adults who will attend Sunday School and educational classes this year.

Ali: We give thanks for all who will teach and lead.

Teachers: We offer ourselves to this special calling of sharing God's good news. May we be filled with creativity, patience and wisdom as we mentor those in our care. May our classrooms and fellowship hall be safe places where everyone feels welcomed and inspired to learn in a spirit of love.

Scott: All this we pray in the name of Jesus, friend and wise teacher.

Congregation: *Amen.*