

Salina Mennonite Church

Salina Mennonite Church is a Christian community seeking to share God's love through celebration, nurture, service, and peacemaking.

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent



At Home Worship

Show Us, Jesus, How You Define Blindness

Focus statement: *Jesus looks at inner attitudes, not external appearance. The church leaders are blind to their sins and so easily pass judgment on others. All of their empty words could not save them. The blind man only had to say, "I believe." Those options are given to us today also. We have to say, "I believe," so Jesus can show us where we are blind.*

Gathering

Songs *Abre Mis Ojos (Open My Eyes)* Sing the Story 65
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir_aCbi3AZA
Open the Eyes of My Heart
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE>

Light Three Lenten Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd!

People: We have everything we need.

Leader: The Lord leads us beside peaceful waters and right paths, comforting us through the valleys of despair, and preparing for us a rich feast.

People: We have more than we need.

Leader: The Lord anoints us for healing, strengthening, gifting, and blessing.

People: Our cups overflow with goodness and mercy.

All: We will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymns *Blessed Jesus, At Your Word* Hymnal 13
(Organ) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-9j7qa7f9U>
(Choir) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhbTXFHv5Uc>
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Hymnal 216
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjgPTZn4nSY>

Hearing God's Word

Storytelling/Scripture

Imagine you have two gifts—one beautifully wrapped and one not so attractive. Which box would you choose? Would you be surprised to discover a "nice" item in the unattractive box and a "not-so-nice" item in the beautifully wrapped box?

Review the story of Samuel and David in 1 Samuel 16:1-13:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJa-X5BX36k>

How is the way God sees different than the way we see? How often do we think something is good because of its outward appearance. Think about the surprises of God.

Review the story of the man born blind in John 9:1-41:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4JVRwG3i8M>

Look forward and without turning your head notice what you can see. Place one hand over one of your eyes and without turning your head notice what you can't see. Note the difference. Now place both hands over your eyes. Squeeze your fingers tightly together, not letting any light in. Now what can you see? Consider how the blind man was feeling. What did he do to get help? What might you if you were a person who is blind?

Prayer: *God, you see everything. We don't. Help us to listen to you, just like the blind man did. Help us to believe in you and to tell others, too. Amen. A . . . men (hand clap).*

Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See Hymnal 517
(3 Verses) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt0E84tRhhc>
(Instrumental) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTv-p8SG1NI>

Sermon

What? Are We Blind Too?

Song

My Father's Eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAkzJUH9GR8>

Confessing/Reconciling

Confession

God, we confess that we are quick to judge others and not acknowledge our own sins and weaknesses.

We confess that we do not always follow your example because immorality, impurity, and greed are part of our lives, and obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes come from our lips.

God, we need your light to shine on us to expose the things we say and do that are not pleasing to you.

Forgive us our sins.

(Silence)

Assurance of pardon

Though your hearts were once filled with darkness,
now you are full of the light of the Lord.
This light within you produces what is good and right and true.
Let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.
Walk in the light for you are no longer blind.

Hymn *Let There Be Light, Lord God* Sing the Journey 67
(Different Tunes than Sing the Journey)
(A Cappella) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXupCQs-mc0>
(Piano) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qys-WiwqLFO>

Responding

Ritual of Response

- *Make a gratitude list of the gifts God has given you.*
- *Choose one of those gifts and consider how God would like you to use it in the days ahead.*
- *Ask God to help you see more clearly and to give you the strength to use your gifts to help those around you.*

Name Your Joys and Concerns

Prayer *Healer of Our Every Ill* Hymnal 377
(Begins with Prayers) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRtuWPYU2o>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rZDfEKtMI>

Extinguish One Lenten Candle

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* Hymnal 545
(Celtic Version) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIMhshpf0Y4>
(Quartet) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N96n0L8ddM0>

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Leave this time of worship knowing that you are a forgiven sinner with the light and power of God living in and through you so that those who are spiritually blind can say, "I believe!"

Salina Mennonite Church

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Churchwide Prayer Request

Pray for all Mennonite related organizations as they continue ministry and service while adapting to all the changes the COVID-19 pandemic brings.

Pastor Christina's Schedule

Usual Office Hours: 9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

Available most of the time by text, phone, or email.

Upcoming Events

March 24 Church Board 7:00 pm

Consider all other events cancelled/postponed unless told differently.

Announcements

Worship during COVID-19 Outbreak: With the ever changing status of the corona virus outbreak, it is difficult to know how to best be a congregation at this time. Worship is cancelled for March 22 and 29. The Church Board will make a decision about April worship at their meeting on Tuesday.

The Kansas Relief Sale scheduled for April 18-19 has been cancelled.

2020	Attendance		Unified Budget	Other	Total
3/15	19		\$600.00		\$600.00