

Salina Mennonite Church

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

March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent



At Home Worship

Show Us, God, Your Power over Death Itself

Focus statement: *We hold in tension the truth that Jesus is the resurrection, and the reality that death does have some sting. Jesus, we need you to show us you have power over death itself.*

Gathering

Songs *Come and Be Light for Our Eyes* Sing the Journey 5
David Haas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD8OvgXxixc>
With lyrics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU55oo4t24Y>
O Breath of Life Sing the Journey 35
(Both versions are a different tune than in Sing the Journey)
Worship Group <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKz1BwFe6uE>
(Men's Choir has 5 verses + a bonus song)
Men's Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AapvdRqSYrk>

Light Two Lenten Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: In ancient times, Yahweh asked the prophet,
"Do you believe these dead bones can live again?"

People: The prophet answered, "O God, you know!"

Leader: In the time of Jesus, he asked Martha,
"Do you believe I am the resurrection and the life?"

People: Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe."

Leader: Today God asks, "Do you trust that mourning can turn
into joy? That your weary bones will live again?"

People: We answer, "O God, show us!"

Hymn *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Hymnal 46

A Cappella <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeSoE1Kmmv0>

Contemporary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwd1UHcsTwm>

Hearing God's Word

Scripture *The Story of Lazarus* John 11:1-45
Dramatized (You could begin at 45 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMdcQ5vwU8E>

Storytelling *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf* by Leo Buscaglia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ost-rXRU81o>

Reflect on the story: *Think about the changes Freddie when through. Which ones were fun? Which ones were frightening? What was Freddie's purpose? Jesus lived here with us as a person. He walked, he talked, he laughed, and he cried. He had a purpose too. It looked like he died too, but that was not the end of the story? God loved Jesus and brought him back to life, just like Jesus brought his friend, Lazarus, back to life.*

Prayer: *God, you are amazing. Your love is right here with us all the time; thank you for saving me. Help me to trust you, when I get a new purpose. Amen. A . . . men (hand clap).*

Scripture *The Valley of the Dry Bones* Ezekiel 37:1-14
NRSV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkBr1aw3kyE>
Bible Project https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDeCWW_Bnyw

Song *Come Alive (Dry Bones)* by Lauren Daigle
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuCLqoxigNA>

Sermon *Finding Life in Dry Times*

Hymn *I Am the Bread of Life* Hymnal 472
(Neither version has all 5 verses)

Choir with piano <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvD0XJzOWQ4>

Solo with guitar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CRMbh8ViUI>

Confessing

Affirmation of Faith

Into the silence of the void our Creator spoke, bringing life.

The Cosmic Christ and the Holy Spirit hovered

over the waters—

matter from nothing,

flesh from dust,

life from lifelessness.

We believe Jesus can bring life out of nothing,

but three days is a long time to wait.

Jesus, in our waiting for new life, give us hope.

Show us your resurrection power that we may fully believe.

Song *Beautiful Things* by Lisa Gungor, Michael Gungor

Live in studio <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyPBtExE4W0>

With lyrics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OH7fsHze-Kk>

Responding

Ritual of Response: John 11:24 “I am the resurrection and the life.”

- Find a symbol of the resurrection
 - Take a picture of new life
 - Create something representing new life
 - Plant some seeds
- Pray about an area of your life that needs resurrection.
- Share your creation with someone else
 - Post a picture on Facebook
 - Email or call someone

Name your Joys and Concerns

Hymn When Peace Like a River Hymnal 336
Studio Singers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDIJz6zzHNU>

Offering

If you are able, you are invited to mail your financial contributions to the church. You could consider an additional contribution to help those in particular need right now. Some suggestions are:

- Salina Area United Way COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund
<https://www.unitedwaysalina.org/sauw-covid-19>
- MCC (Cancellation of Relief Sales and closure of Thrift Shops has a huge impact)
<https://donate.mcc.org>
- Everence Sharing Fund
<https://www.everence.com/living-the-values/everence-sharing-fund>

Extinguish One Lenten Candle

Hymn They That Wait upon the Lord Hymnal 584
Solo with guitar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIVY48x0syQ>

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

“Come out!” Jesus cries, calling us from our tombs into a world full of grace and possibility. “Go out!” Jesus commands, calling us into the world to live as God’s resurrected people.

Salina Mennonite Church
Christina Litwiller, Pastor
600 State Street, Salina, KS 67401
785-825-2663

Email: salinamennonite@hotmail.com
Website: www.salinamennonite.org

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

April 1 Worship Committee via Zoom 4:45 pm
April 28 Church Board 7:00 pm
Consider all other events cancelled/postponed unless told differently.

Church Activities during COVID-19 Outbreak

At our meeting Tuesday evening, the church board and I decided to suspend worship services in our building until further notice. This is in accordance with Governor Kelly's executive order on March 24 to limit meetings to 10 people or less. Even though there is an exemption for religious gatherings, it would be difficult to maintain appropriate social distancing in our sanctuary. We do not want to put each other at risk.

Since our meeting, both Saline County and the State of Kansas have issued stay-at-home orders. The county order remains in effect for 30 days. It may be lifted earlier if circumstances warrant it. It seems unlikely it will be lifted until after the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kansas begins to decrease.

I will continue to prepare at-home worship services and host Zoom check-in events on Sunday mornings. I hope to begin other kinds of gatherings during the week. I welcome your suggestions for what would be most meaningful to you.

Since I live across the street from the church, I will continue to work in the office during my usual office hours. I welcome your calls, emails, and texts even if not during office hours.

Pastor Christina