



**SEEKING GOD'S HIGHER WAYS**  
**Lent 4**



Hope Mennonite Church  
March 27, 2022  
9:30 am Worship

### Gathering to Worship

*As we gather for worship, please silence all electronic devices.  
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

Prelude

Welcome

\* Call to Worship

Adapted from Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art

Here in this place, new light is streaming. So, don't hold back.  
Bring all of yourself!

**For God loves us just the way we are  
and brings out the best in us.**

Now is the darkness vanished away.

So, don't hold back. Bring all of yourself!

**For God welcomes all of us, with our scars and fears,  
our depression and doubt, our hope and faith,  
our joy and laughter.**

Here in this place, new light is streaming—light for warmth and  
new growth. So, bring all of yourself!

**For God does not hold back, longs to be with us,  
and comes all-in to meet us.**

Opening Prayer

\* Songs of Gathering

"Could It Be That God Is Singing"

Voices Together 42

"Together"

Voices Together 389

Children's Time

### Confession and Release

**Holy God, have mercy on us. Our thoughts are not your  
thoughts, and our ways are not your ways. We confess that  
sometimes we judge ourselves severely, incapacitate  
ourselves with shame, and imagine this is your will for us.  
Forgive us for underestimating your longing to be reconciled.**

Silence

Release from the Box

**Gracious God, thank you for your eagerness to celebrate homecomings. Amen.**

Hearing God’s Word

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Dwight Gustafson      Choir  
Scripture Reading      Luke 15:11-32  
“Far, Far Away/I Will Arise”      Voices Together 300  
Message      “Reversible Lostness”      Dave Stevens

Responding to God’s Word

\* “Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us”      Voices Together 718  
The Giving of our Tithes and Offerings  
    Offertory  
    Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Greeting our Guests (Please pass the attendance pads)  
Seeing and Seeking God  
    Work of the Church  
    Sharing our Praises and Concerns  
“Hear my Prayer” Moses Hogan      Choir  
Prayers of God’s People

Sending

“I’ll Be On My Way” Shawn Kirchner      Choir  
\*Benediction

Friends, go forth from this place to celebrate the gift of belonging that God has given us.  
**We go forth to celebrate and to share God’s gift of belonging with others.**

\* \* \* \* \*

A warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship with us this morning on the fourth Sunday of Lent, be it in person or on Zoom. The Zoom recording is available Monday-Thursday.

Stay in Touch with Hope

Hope Mennonite Church  
868 N. Maize Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212

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[www.hopemennonite.org](http://www.hopemennonite.org)

Pastor

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Emergencies

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Church Office Hours

Dave

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00n p.m.

Cynthia

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Kim

Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Staff meeting Monday- 9:30-11 a.m.

Hope on Facebook: Follow the link on our website

[hopemennonite.org](http://hopemennonite.org) and “like” Hope Mennonite Church to see pictures and receive updates on church life.

First Fruits Giving:

Giving the first and best of what we are given  
as a worship response to God.

March 20

Attendance 77

(Hope 48; Zoom 27; Zoom recorded 2)

Offering \$1,750

Year-to-date \$46,649

Spending plan year-to-date \$58,846

Hope offers the option of giving your tithes and offerings  
electronically through the program **Tithely**.

Contact the church office for instructions.

*Our Purpose:*

*As an Anabaptist community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit, Hope Mennonite Church is calling and making disciples who bring Christ's love and peace to our world.*

## Worship Participants

Worship leader: Lori Miller  
Pianist: Ruthie Goering  
Song leader: Trae Gehring  
Choir directors: Kendrick Weaver, Trae Gehring  
Scripture reader: Mike Voth  
Box Opener: Bethany Gipson  
Puppeteers: Debbie Kasitz, Ruthie Goering  
Worship tech: Scott Luty  
Zoom host: Michelle Jantz

## Upcoming Worship Services

April 3	Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 10	Palm Sunday
April 14	Maundy Thursday

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK (March 27-April 2)

Tuesday	-10:00 am Women's Zoom Study - Gospel of Mark -7:00 pm Worship Commission
Wednesday	-7:00 pm Choir
Thursday	-7:00 am Women's Zoom Study – "How to Have An Enemy: Righteous Anger & The Work of Peace"
Friday	-6-7pm Reserved Event
Saturday	-Sandwich Saturday (Chris Bellar coordinator)



- \*Pre-1<sup>st</sup>: Room 8/9
- \*Elementary: Room 7
- \*Youth: No Sunday School today
- \*Adults: "Why did Jesus die and what difference does it make?" by Michelle Hershberger & led by Gary Hand.

Coffee preparation next week: Chris Bellar

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (April 3-9)

Sunday	-Noon – youth group
Tuesday	-10:00 am Women's Zoom Study - Gospel of Mark -6:30 pm Deacons
Wednesday	-7:00 pm Choir
Thursday	-7:00 am Women's Zoom Study – "How to Have An Enemy: Righteous Anger & The Work of Peace"
Friday	-6-7pm reserved event
Saturday	-10 am-4 pm reserved event

Guests & Visitors last week: Lori Jenkins

A special welcome to Trae Gehring. Trae is a student at Bethel College and will become our full-time choir director next fall.

Sandwich Saturday Saturday: 18 dozen cookies are needed for distribution on April 2. Please sign up if you are able to help.

Now through Sunday **April 3**, we are collecting coins/bills for the Mid-Kansas Relief Sale's "My Coins Count" project. A tin bucket will be located next to the offering basket for your donations. To date, we have collected \$234.13. In 2021, we collected \$570.08. The money raised this year will go for food and water needs around the world. Keep those coins/bills coming!

The March 25 issue of "Anabaptist World" is available on the literature table. This issue focuses on Christian service and Love in Action. Pick up your copy today.

We will be hosting two Family Promise families the week of April 3. Volunteer opportunities can be found on Signup Genius or talk to Michelle Ernt, our volunteer coordinator. If you have never participated, you are encouraged to do the training. Contact Val Mayta, Michelle Ernt or Amy Bellar for more information.

**Welcome/Inclusion Statement:** In Fellowship Hall you will find a draft of our Welcome and Inclusion Statement. It is the compilation of the recent discussion sessions and the concepts feedback. It was created by grouping together similar phrases on the post-it notes. A word cloud of the phrases was created and then the groups of phrases were ordered in a way to create the framework for a draft statement. Vision Council seeks your reactions and feedback. Please share your thoughts on the draft by April 10<sup>th</sup> to [Moderator@hopemennonite.org](mailto:Moderator@hopemennonite.org). A picture of the compilation along with the draft statement will be sent out from the church office this coming week.

Witness and Outreach invites you to volunteer to maintain communication with our new mission partners, the Givens family. We would like to have different individuals (or families if you wish) sign up for one month of the year, when you would be asked to communicate, preferably twice, but at least once, with the Givens. Simply sharing greetings from your family, relating Hope events, etc. is welcomed by anyone who is serving away from their own family and friends. If you are interested, please sign up for your preferred month on the W & O bulletin board. After signing up, we will give you reminders and some specific information about the Givens.



Working Men of Christ thanks everyone at Hope for the generous donations of clothing and other items to their discipleship house here in Wichita. Thank you to Donna Bradbury for offering J Clyde's van for a minimal cost. The van is being used by the House of Joshua in Topeka. Other current needs for Jeremiah House are eight sturdy padded seat folding chairs for our dining room. We can also use new pillows.

#### Prayers for the wider church

...Please pray for Summit Street Church, the church replant in Beatrice, NE, as they continue to navigate what it means to follow Jesus' call to become something new. In particular, please pray for the new members/baptism class that will be starting soon.

...Pray for the SOOP program (Service Opportunities with Our Partners) as participants use their gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries in 70 locations, both in North America and overseas.

...Pray for Mennonite Mission Network's Nigeria Partners: Nigeria Anabaptist Peace Center and the 45 congregations of the Nigeria Mennonite Church.