



## **Assembly 2010 Evening Worship Services**

### **Are You the One?**

Tuesday, June 29

#### **Call to Worship and Welcome**

Leaders 1&2: God has called us by name.

Leader 1: In the lands where we live, God has called us.

Leader 2: To this land and to this time, God has called us.

Leader 1: From across the country and down the road, we have come to answer this call.

Leader 2: From over the mountains and across the prairies, around the lakes and along the rivers, we have come to meet with each other.

Leader 1: From our congregations, our area churches, and our places of worship, we have come to worship God and to work together.

Leader 2: Across this land that God has created, we have come.

Leader 1: And in this land to which God invites us, we lift our voices in praise.

*Sung Response: #35 HWB, verse 1*

English: "God has called us by name"

*Sung Response: #35 HWB, first sentence*

Cantonese/Mandarin: "God has called us by name"

*Sung Response: #35 HWB, second sentence*

Vietnamese: "God has called us by name"

*Sung Response: #35 HWB, third sentence*

Spanish: "God has called us by name"

**Leader:** As we meet as the people of Mennonite Church Canada we also recognize that the land on which we gather is land that Aboriginal people lived on long before we arrived. I am honoured to introduce to you Vincent Yellow Old Woman of the Siksika Nation to bring words of welcome and blessing. Our moderator, Andrew Reesor-McDowell will respond.

### **Aboriginal Welcome and Blessing**

### **Response and Presentation of the peace lamp**

*Sung Response: #35 HWB, verse 2*

### **Singing**

*#6 HWB - Here in this Place*

*God is Great (Marty Samson, Hillsongs)*

*#303 HWB – Come gracious Spirit*

**Focus words:** How fitting it is that we begin our time together as a national church coming together for a time of worship. We have gathered in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, realizing that we are part of a long history that God has with humankind. Day by day, moment by moment we witness God's care for us and God's desire for relationship with us.

Having said that, we human beings are interesting creatures. We have been given the freedom to love, the imagination to discover hope, and the ability to experience true joy. But we have also been given the intelligence to allow ourselves to doubt. In fact, some of us, maybe even a good number of us, experience times of serious doubt.

As we move into the Scripture presentation now, it will begin with a short drama that expresses honest doubt, the kind of doubt that maybe even some of us feel. This drama will set up the reading to follow in which John the Baptist, who was previously filled with hope

and joy at seeing the Messiah coming to the river for baptism, now has his serious doubts about Jesus as he is sitting in prison.

**Present day drama**

**Scripture** - Matthew 11:2-6

**Message** - Gareth Brandt

**Response:**

**Theme song:** *Reclaim the Name* (Doug Klassen and Chad Miller)

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God,

We confess that in our changing world we are troubled and ask: Are you the one?

We confess that we think we know where we will find you

Yet we are blind to the unexpected places where you are at work.

Give us courage, like Jacob to wrestle with you and be transformed.

*Pause*

Hear these words of Assurance from Isaiah 58:9-11

**Offering preparation:**

*Wednesday evening offering: growing leaders within Mennonite Church Canada*

*Friday evening offering: growing leaders for the global church*

**Closing prayer:**

Holy God,

Sometimes our lives are confused by many options, and sometimes they are ordinary in their routines. There are moments such as these when we look to Jesus and ask: "Are you the One?" As we go from here, awaken us to what we have heard and seen: healing, cleansing, new life and good news. And may we bless others with these blessings of yours. Amen

**Sending Song:** *Go in Peace* (Loretta Friesen, Camps with Meaning)

# **You Are the Holy One**

Wednesday evening, June 30

## **Call to Worship**

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Singing**

*#9 STJ - Come now is the time to worship*

*#545 HWB - Be thou my vision*

*Here I am to Worship* (Tim Hughes, Worship Together)

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Singing:** *Tegan la Mente De Cristo* (Bryan Moyer Suderman, Small and Tall Music)

## **Focus Words:**

## **Present day drama**

**Scripture** John 6:60-69

**Message** - Lucy Roca

## **Response:**

**Theme song:** *Reclaim the Name* (Doug Klassen and Chad Miller)

**Active response:** Stone Ritual

**Singing:** *#493 HWB - I heard the voice of Jesus say*

*#340 HWB - 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus*

## **Offering prayer**

## **Closing Prayer**

**Sending Song:** *Go in Peace* (Loretta Friesen, Camps with Meaning)

## **Have You Heard of the One?**

Friday, July 2

### **Call to Worship**

Holy and loved by God

Come!

Let's worship the One

Who has prepared for us fine garments:

... compassion, ...kindness, ..humility, ...meekness ...and patience.

Let's sit at the table of the One

Who nourishes us with forgiveness.

Let's sing the song of our Beloved One

And let it ring clear through our words and actions.

Come, let us worship!

### **Prayer**

God of life, Christ of love, Spirit of peace,

In generosity beyond imagination

You continue to show us the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy

And in your hands are pleasures forever more. (Psalm 16: 11)

God of life, Christ of love, Spirit of peace

We offer you our thanks. AMEN.

## **Singing**

*Mountain of God* (Phil Campbell Enns)

*God is Great* (Marty Sampson, Hillsongs)

## **Focus words:**

This week we have dared to be honest and vulnerable. We admit that in these challenging times there are those within the church who are asking questions about what it means to claim Jesus Christ. We dare to believe that wrestling with God and each other in discernment, will indeed transform us so that we can gladly claim the name of Jesus in a deeper and fuller sense.

In this moment of silence consider: where is God calling us as Mennonite Church Canada in all its various expressions to boldly be the presence of Christ in our world?

*Pause*

## **Sing**

*#88 STJ - Haleluya! Pelo rona*

*#528 HWB - I stand amazed in the presence*

**Scripture-** Acts 4: 1-31

**Message -** Doug Klassen

## **Response:**

**Theme song:** *Reclaim the Name* (Doug Klassen and Chad Miller)

## **Offering:**

*This evening's offering will allow Mennonite Church Canada to work with our Global mission partners in equipping their leaders.*

**Offering prayer:** We have opened our hands and our pockets to partner with You, O God and to partner with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Help us to also receive what our global brothers and sisters have to offer us. AMEN.

## **Time with the children:**

### **Communion:**

#### **Singing during communion:**

*Fill us with your Feast* (Phil Campbell Enns)

*In Christ Alone* (Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)

*Here I am to Worship* (Tim Hughs, Worship Together)

### **Commissioning Litany:**

#### **Giving Thanks**

**Leader:** Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

We give thanks to those who have served the national church and are now completing their assignment.

**Congregation:** We thank you for saying yes to God's call. We thank you for your work and your love, for your common sense and your vision, and for your commitment and sacrifice. We have been blessed by your gifts. We urge you to continue to wear the clothes God has picked out for you, clothes of kindness, humility, meekness, patience and love. May you wear them with wisdom and thankfulness.

*Sung Response: STJ# 38 Beloved, God's chosen v 1*

#### **Commissioning to Service**

**Leader:** At this Annual Assembly, we commission the new Executive Staff members of Mennonite Church Canada to their respective ministries. Today we present to you:

Vic Thiessen is working as the Chief Operating Officer of Mennonite Church Canada. He brings his experience and gifts to this ministry after serving in various parts of Canada and in London, England. God has gifted him with wisdom and insight for this position, and we are grateful.

Norm Dyck is working as the Executive Secretary of the newly formed Church Engagement Council. Norm brings his gifts and experience as a pastor to this ministry of working closely with our congregations. God has gifted him with wisdom and insight for this ministry, and we are grateful.

Willard Metzger has been appointed as the new General Secretary and will begin November, 2010. Willard brings the experience of 18 years of pastoral ministry and 9 years as chair of the MC Canada Witness Council. We are grateful that he has accepted this call by the church for this leadership role.

Q: Do you believe that you are called by God and God's church to this ministry?

A: I do.

Q: Will you accept this ministry entrusted to you by this commissioning?

A: I will.

Q: Will you respect and be guided by the beliefs and practices of Mennonite Church Canada in fulfillment of your responsibilities?

A: I will.

Q: Will you seek to balance your service to the church with Sabbath-keeping?

A: I will.

**Congregation:** We thank you for saying yes to God's call. We pledge our support and our prayers to you.

*Sung Response: STJ# 38 Beloved, God's chosen v 2*

**Leader:** (elected leaders and staff please stand) You have been called by God and chosen by the people of God to lead Mennonite Church Canada with your gifts. We thank you for accepting this calling.

**Elected leaders and staff:** We commit ourselves to wearing the Jesus-clothes of kindness, humility, meekness, patience and love as we lead, make decisions and report. We commit ourselves to seeking God's wisdom in prayer and in dialogue. We ask for your support.

**Congregation:** On behalf of our congregations, we pledge our support to you with our prayers, time and money. We thank you for saying yes to God's call. (Congregational representatives who are near elected leaders and staff are invited to reach out and offer handshakes and brief words of support.)

**Prayer of All:** Holy God, make us your people, a people robed in your grace, joy and peace. May your healing and hope flow through us to your world. We pray in the power of your Spirit and the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

*Sung Response: STJ# 38 Beloved, God's chosen v 3*



**Leader:** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom and with gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. (Colossians 3:15-16)

(Litany written by Melissa Miller, pastor at Springstein Mennonite Church, Mennonite Church Manitoba)

**Sending Song:** #226 HWB - *You are salt for the earth*