



Worship Outlines

Assembly 2011

Opening Worship, Monday July 4

Remembering God's Future...This is our Story

Opening

- 1 We greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!
- 2 Welcome to Mennonite Church Canada Assembly and to worship ...we gather together as God's people!
- 1 We are looking forward to worshipping God together with you during this assembly, because worshipping is what God's people do!
- 2 The scripture that will guide and inform our worship this year is from Revelation 20 and 21, which invites us to consider who we are and where are headed. Let's join together in reading the litany on the screen:

Leader: Remember God's future, for this is our story!

People: *We are the gathered church called to live into God's future today.*

Leader: A church united across space and time.

People: *A church of many races, languages and ethnicities.*

Leader: A church that lives by the grace of God in Christ that was, is now, and is still to come.

People: *The one who is seated on the throne says to us: "See, I am making all things new!"*

Leader: A new heaven and a new earth, where the home of God is among God's people.

People: *God's future is epic, and it's good news.*

ALL: *REMEMBER GOD'S FUTURE, FOR THIS IS OUR STORY!*

(Music team begins playing refrain of 332 HWB “Blessed Assurance” softly, the leader starts reading the following over the music)

- 1 God’s future is a story that belongs to all of us.
The Mennonite church around the world is a wonderfully diverse body,
and we as the Mennonite Church of Canada are too.
We come with different histories and traditions of faith
that have shaped our encounter with God's story.
- 2 We come as people with different ethnic backgrounds,
different language groups and nationalities
--these all colour our expression of the gospel.
- 1 We come from different places across the country...
our geographical locations play deeply in the geographies of our souls and of
our faith.
- 2 As we meet here, we also recognize that we are guests on land that was the
home of Aboriginal people who were here long before we arrived. We
know that the memory of this place extends back far beyond ourselves. And
yet as we gather it is one future that we proclaim as one people. One future
that we have known in the story of God's saving work throughout time.
- 1 God's future has been our story, wherever we come from.
Praise the one whose word is trustworthy and true, now and forevermore.

Refrain: 332 HWB – Blessed Assurance 2x

Opening prayer:

O God of past and future, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. In you the many threads of our present are woven together into the fabric of your eternal faithfulness. We gather here because you have gathered us, uniting us with each other and together with your saints in all times and places. Thank you for embracing each of our stories, in all their wonderful diversity. We praise you for the beauty of your church, called together from all nations into the one body of Christ our Lord.

And so we dedicate these days of worship, discernment and fellowship to you.
We ask for wisdom as we deliberate and make decisions.
We ask for open hearts as we seek to listen for your voice.
We ask for vision as we navigate our own present in the memory of your future.
We ask for your vision...we need to navigate our present,
but we want to do this with the memory of your future
clear before us.
Be here in the midst of your people, we pray,
for it's in your name that we have gathered in this place.
We ask this in the power of Jesus Christ, the slain Lamb who reigns forevermore.
Amen.

Hymn: You are holy - Sing the Story #34

Readers' Theatre - "And God Said" - for script, see
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1609

Introduction of Speaker Nelson Kraybill

Sermon – The audio recording can be heard here - www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1605.

Hymn – Beyond a dying sun – 323 HWB

Prayer

O God, we praise you for the work that you are doing in our lives and in our world. For the new heavens and the new earth that you are creating right here in the middle of the old that we know so well. We long for your spirit to move among us - we long to be new women and new men, bearing your image as it moves and shapes us. We have tasted your newness in our worship; may it continue to draw us back into your presence throughout the week ahead. For your work of creation and redemption leaves nothing untouched, O God. It bursts upon us in our work as in our worship. So as we move into our first discernment block of this Gathering, we open ourselves to the moving of your spirit as well. Give us wisdom as we engage the work of being your church. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Offering

Mennonite Church Canada's congregations worship in over 15 different languages every week, yet we can only offer very limited Mennonite resources in languages other than English. With the Translation Project we are establishing a fund to help support our ongoing translation ministry. Once translated, these resources can also be used for our International Ministry programs in up to 25 countries around the world.

You can help. Every gift, small or big, will help strengthen the increasingly culturally diverse Mennonite community across Canada – and around the world.

So I invite you to prepare your offering. Please make cheques payable to Mennonite Church Canada and designate Translation Project. You will find offering envelopes in your bag, one for tonight and one for the Friday night offering.

At the end of the evening, after this opening session we will have an offering and sending prayer. During the time of singing that follows, you will be invited to leave and outside the door there will be ushers to receive your gift. Thank you.

Offering Prayer

- 1 Lord, with the action of this offering we tell your story:
- 2 how you have dealt generously with us,
- 1 how you have met our needs,
- 2 how you have heard our prayers,
- 1 how your goodness is from everlasting to everlasting.
- 2 Bless these offerings which are given in the name of Christ,
for the work of your church. Amen.

Closing Songs

Tuesday Morning Worship

A new heaven, a new earth

Revelation 21:1

Theme songs

323 HWB - refrain of "I see a new world coming"

14 HWB - We're marching to Zion

Welcome

Singing

113 SS I will stand in the congregation

65 SS Abre mis ojos (Open my eyes) - v 1, 2 in Spanish

322 HWB For we are strangers no more - v 2, 3

Prayer time

Singing

28 SS Holy Child within a manger

306 HWB In Christ there is no East or West

397 HWB God loves all his many people

Sending

Tuesday Evening

God's Holy City

Revelation 21:1-4

Silence

Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

101 HWB Alleluia

204 HWB Gloria

Scripture Reading – Revelation 21:1-2

Meditative Singing

45 SS Calm me, Lord

49 SS I will come to you in the silence

348 HWB O Lord, hear my prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading – Revelation 21:3-5a

Song

50 SS Come, bring your burdens to God

Sending (in silence)

Wednesday Morning

Behold, the Lamb

Revelation 21:22-23

Theme songs - 323 HWB Beyond a Dying Sun
14 HWB Come, we that love the Lord

Welcome

Singing

116 HWB - Crown him with many crowns - v. 1, 4, 5

75 SS - Heri ni jina (Blessed be the name)

72 SS - We are often tossed and driv'n - v. 1, 3, 4

Prayer Time

Singing

296 HWB - Here from all nations (to 327 HWB – Great is thy faithfulness)

69 SS - Ya hamalaLah (O Lamb of God)

73 SS - Jesus is coming

Sending

Thursday morning

Behold...the Light!

Revelation 21: 23-24

Theme Songs - 323 HWB Beyond a Dying Sun
14 HWB Come, we that love the Lord

Welcome

Singing

34 SS - You are holy

33 SS - Let justice flow like a river

646 HWB - O Splendor of God's glory bright - v. 1, 4, 5

Prayer Time

Singing

222 HWB - How brightly beams the morning star - v. 1, 3

31 SS - Jesus, be the center

10 SS - Come! Walk in the light v. 1, 4, 5, 6

Sending

Thursday Evening

Behold...the mystery and the glory

Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

10 HWB – Alleluia

10 SS - Come! Walk in the light

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21: 22-23

Meditative Singing

106 SS - Comme un soufflé fragile

70 SS - For God alone (all languages)

353 HWB - Lord, listen to your children praying

Silent Prayer - Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21: 24-25

Song

247 HWB - Jesus, remember me

Sending (followed by silence)

Friday morning

Behold...the gates are open

Revelation 21:25

Theme Songs - 323 HWB Beyond a Dying Sun

14 HWB Come, we that love the Lord

Welcome

Singing

611 HWB - Soon and very soon

19 HWB - Open now the gates of beauty

115 SS - Beauty for brokenness

Prayer Time

Singing

92 SS - Sing with all the saints in glory

124 SS - My soul cries out

Sending

Closing Worship, Friday evening

Good news... God is dwelling with us

Opening

1 We greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

2 Welcome to worship!

1 We have come to the end of a very rich, but very full week of learning, connecting, praying, discerning and worshipping together as God's people in Mennonite Church Canada.

2 We are glad that a wider group has joined us tonight for an evening of worship; we will be hearing God's word, singing together, and sharing communion.

1 I invite us all now to rest in the River of Life that carries us into the presence of God. For God says: "I will make my home among you. I will be your God, and you will be my people." This is our hope, our assurance and our sustaining grace as we enter this time of worship.

2 Let's pray together:

God of Life, God of wondrous promise and of healing grace,
Thank you for this gift of a week spent together as your people gathered.

We have felt your presence among us in our worship,
our work, our learning and our sharing with each other.

We come together now as a wider group,
your people with inspired spirits, tired spirits, wondering spirits, renewed
spirits, unsettled spirits.

We offer our spirits to you, together.

We place ourselves firmly in the memory of your future.

Call us to yourself once more as we open our hearts in these moments of
silence.

(silence)

Our Lord says: "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of
the water of life."

Let's drink this living water together.

Amen.

- 1 Today a choir made up of our brothers and sisters from some of the Lao Mennonite Churches in MCEC will call us to worship as we enter once more the refreshing waters of God's presence with us.

Call to Worship (Lao choir) - 2 songs

- 2 Tonight's offering will be used for to help the congregation of Foyer Evangélique Mennonite de Ouagadougou (FEMO) in Burkina Faso to create a new congregational meeting space. The local community has already saved nearly \$4500 toward their projected goal of \$22,500– an amazing accomplishment in one of the poorest nations of the world. Through a partnership Mennonite Church Canada is committed to raising 40,000 of the project cost of 158,000. The remainder will come from other Mennonite partners in Burkina Faso.

We invite your generosity to help this community realize it's dream of a space for worship, university student housing and potential new ministries in mediation service and peace and justice training.

The offering will be collected by the ushers as you leave the worship space at the end of the service, the information about how to fill out tonight's offering is on the screen.

Children's Time – (children sing 2 songs)

Singing

497 HWB - God loves all his many people

400 HWB - Santo, santo, santo

34 SS - You are holy

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

Singing

113 SS - I will stand in the congregation

109 SS - Blessing and honour

615 HWB - Shall we gather at the river

Introduction of speaker, Nelson Kraybill

Sermon (The audio recording can be heard here - www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1608)

Singing (in preparation for communion)

77 SS – Here is the Bread

Communion Invitation

- 1 This is the Table of our Lord Jesus Christ.
This is the place where we commune together as God's children.

- 2 Everyone is welcome to come to share in the Lord's Supper.
All who have made a commitment to Jesus Christ and are baptized
are invited to take the bread and juice, and all others (including children) are
welcome to take a grape...as a sign of God's love for you.

- 1 Why do we give thanks at this table?

- 2 We give thanks because God has invited us here!
All God's children are invited to the Lord's supper.
We come humbly to the table,
knowing that we have not earned our way here,
but are invited, guests at this feast of love.

- 1 Why do we eat at this table?

- 2 We eat at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." (*the bread is broken*)
- 1+2 Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life freely for our salvation.
- 1 Why do we drink at this table?
- 2 We drink because that same night Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends saying, "Drink this cup. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me." (*the cup is raised*)
- 1+2 Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life freely for our salvation.
- 1 What do we remember at this table?
- 2 Here we remember the gift that is Jesus;
the gift of his birth, his life and his death on the cross,
We remember and celebrate Christ's resurrection!
We remember that we are waiting in hope to see Jesus again

Communion

472 HWB - I am the bread of life
260 HWB - When I survey
471 HWB - Eat this bread

Prayer & Benediction & Offering Dedication

And the people of God say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
I invite you to respond!
And the people of God say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Lord, thank you for this feast.
Here we have tasted the bread of heaven.
Here we have tasted the wine of the new covenant,
your promise of a new kingdom here on earth.

Here you have met us face to face;
and we give you thanks.
Thank you for this assembly;
for the joy of worship,
for the work of discernment,
for the power of your gathered people.
Fill us with your Spirit so that we may bring good news
to those who are near at hand
and to those who are far away,
even to the ends of the earth.
God of heaven and earth,
accept the gifts of our hands,
and the thankfulness of our hearts,
hearts and hands and voices,
all lifted in praise to you!
And the people of God say,
Come Lord Jesus!
And all the saints in heaven say,
Come Lord Jesus!
And all creation now and forevermore says,
Come Lord Jesus!
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Closing Hymn

427 HWB - You shall go out with joy

(offering collected at the doors, upon departure)