



**2014 Mennonite Church Canada Assembly
Worship**

Sunday morning, July 6, 2014
Canadian Mennonite University

Theme: Gathered in by the Wild Spirit

Opening

(Worship leader begins from the mic in projected whispers, "Sh..... "sounds of waves... swishing hands together... stops when scripture reader says "Peace, be still.")

Scripture

Mark 4:35-41

(The word "AWE" appears on the screen when the reading is finished)

Opening Songs

*Lord of All
Holy, Holy, Holy
10,000 Reasons*

(Ribbon dancers move through worship space during 10,000 Reasons and the call to worship)

Call to Worship

(Flute solo underneath)

Leader: Swift and beautiful is the Spirit's flight,

People: Startling us with wind and fire when we expect whispers.

Leader: The Spirit appears with flaming wings,

People: Warming our hearts and setting our tongues afire.

Leader: Strong and wild is the Spirit's urge,

People: Driving us out when we expected to stay on the shoreline.

Leader: The Spirit moves with amazing grace,

People: Stirring our souls and setting our bodies in motion.

Leader: The Spirit leads with disorienting visions,

People: Challenging our certainties and filling our lives with awe and wonder.

Leader: Surprising and strange is the Spirit's speech,

People: Making us diverse when we expected to remain the same.

Leader: The Spirit sings with many voices,

People: Breaking our silence and filling our ears with harmonies.

Leader: Bold and new are the Spirit's designs,

People: Dazzling us when we expected definitions.

ALL: PRAISE FOR THE WILD SPIRIT WHO FINDS US, FILLS US, AND EMPOWERS US TO
BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF GOD TOGETHER.

Prayer

Our God, we have come together this morning as your church. We, your gathered body, desire to help make your kingdom come. We desire for your will to be done. We long for wild hope to be stirred within us that we might follow where you lead. Be with us now in our worship, may it be a holy place, and may our hearts be open to experience your presence of the Spirit among us.

Amen.

Welcome

- *Well, good morning. My name is Kirsten Hamm and this morning I welcome you to shoreline.*
- *Our worship throughout this past weekend has focused on different aspects of this story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark.*
- *On Thursday we got into the boat with the disciples, we were told by Jesus to leave and go to the other side, and since then we have felt the storm and the waves, we have experienced our fears... and released them, we have been called to have faith, and we have heard the voice of Jesus cry out – Peace! Be still... And now, dear friends, after all of this, we have come to the shoreline.*
- *To the delegates and members who have been part of this journey together this weekend, welcome here.*
- *To those congregations and guests who are joining us for the first time this morning, welcome here.*
- *To all who have come to worship our God this morning, welcome here.*
- *This morning we will explore the shoreline; we will experience the Spirit moving among us; we will hear his wild call, and we will be challenged to respond with hope.*

Jesus/Peter Dialogue – adapted “The Call” from Jesus and Peter: Off the Record Conversations/Dialogues. Available from the Resource Centre - www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2403.

Children’s Time – use the material from “Assembly Sunday Worship Resource” - www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2320.

(Words on screen: AND IT HELPED US BE LESS AFRAID)

Comment

When we were afraid, being tossed around by the waves, Jesus spoke and said “be still.”

“Be still,” you say, “and know that I am God.”

So, we will be still and listen... (find ¾ pulse) ... To the beating of our hearts

To the racing of our minds, to the unsettledness of our soul,

Knowing that your Spirit, your Holy Spirit, is beating, racing, disturbing

Within us and among us.

Song

SS #65 *Open my eyes, Lord*

Meditation – “From Fear to Awe” - Brian Quan

To view this message, please see www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2404.

Song

How great thou art

Offering

Our offering this morning is going to have two parts. The first involves the children and junior youth. They will be collecting loose change to help our Ministry friends in Cuba receive the training and equipment they need to build an Aquaponics tank, which is like a big fish tank that also grows plants. The hope is that once these tanks are established and there are extra fish and plants, these can be sold to raise money for food and for the local churches.

The second part of our offering, which the ushers will be collecting, is for Mennonite World Conference. MWC has issued out a challenge regarding the 2015 Global Assembly – for each person to give the \$15 it would cost you to go out for lunch following the service.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, bless the gifts that are given this day. We pray for the ministries in Cuba and the hope that comes in the form of an aquaponics tank, and we pray for Mennonite World Conference as they prepare for next year's Assembly. May we be good stewards of all we have been given, and may these ministries continue to be used to grow your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Communion

We are invited this morning to come and eat at this table that has been prepared for us, reminding us of our need for spiritual nourishment and the blessing of fellowship.

I invite you now to enter into a prayer of confession and preparation. I will begin, and we will end together with the Lord's Prayer, and I invite you to pray in whichever language you feel most comfortable. Let us enter into prayer together...

Our God you bid us come, but our feet are heavy, our spirits hesitant. Who will all be there? Some who've criticized us? Others we've passed judgment on? The stranger whom we fear as the unknown? How awkward, unnerving even, to celebrate unity within the diversity of Christian faith when it seems so superficial.

How can we come to your table honestly? Genuinely. Faithfully.

Our God you know our inmost being, and yet still, you bid us come, and you bid us come together. We are your body, and it is only together that we form your kingdom.

Hear now our prayer of confession, spoken in different languages, but by the same body.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

This is a table of celebration where Christ provides us what we need for our journey toward God's future. To this table of feasting Jesus also reminds us that it is his table and not our own; that those to whom the Spirit offers wild hope are diverse and from the four corners of the earth. Christ calls all of us to the wildness of both submission and celebration at this one table.

The Wine: Jesus turns water into wine. Jesus pours out his life for us. And at Pentecost the Spirit is poured out abundantly on everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. As we come to the table, let us drink and celebrate the wine of new life in the power of the Spirit.

The Bread: Jesus eats with sinners. When his disciples are overwhelmed with a crowd of 5000 Jesus takes the fish and 5 small loaves of a young boy. Jesus gives thanks, and serves the people. They are satisfied and there is more than enough!

Let us eat and be thankful!

Instructions

All those who confess faith in Jesus Christ and are in fellowship with a faith community are welcome to the table.

To the youth and children who are here today - we are glad that you are part of our faith community. You are also on a journey of growing in your love for Jesus. You are welcome to come to this table to my left to receive a blessing and a cracker and grape in anticipation of the time when you make your baptismal vows.

The bread and the crackers are gluten free. The ushers will guide us. If you find it difficult to move to a station please signal an usher and we will come serve you.

So come. The Spirit is nudging us!

Come, for the seeds of wild hope are sown in this feasting!

Come and submit to the Spirit's adventure. Come and allow Christ to make us new.

Songs during Communion

HWB #229 *Lord, you have come to the lakeshore*

HWB #475 *Eat this bread*

HWB #475 *Become to us the living bread*

HWB #1 *What is this place?*

SJ 57 *Mayenziwe*

SJ 32 *If you believe and I believe*

Prayer

God we have feasted at your table, and have been nourished beyond our wildest hopes. Your Spirit abides within us, and for this may we always be joyful. Amen.

Commissioning

Thankfulness for those who are completing their leadership role

Leader: We give thanks to God for all of you, remembering before God your work of faith and labour of love for Mennonite Church Canada.

People: We thank you for the love and passion you have for Christ and the church, and for your work and commitment. As you now lay down your tasks, we thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit through you. We pray that you may continue to be filled with life and hope by the power of God's Spirit.

Commitment to elected leaders, staff and Witness workers

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

People: As the church walks in a season of change and unfamiliarity we have chosen you to serve and lead. As you now take up your work, we ask that you continue to nurture deep roots of faith as individuals and as boards, committees, staff and Witness workers. We invite you to listen and dream and imagine together with us. We commit ourselves to pray for you and to uphold and participate in the ministry of the national church.

Leaders, staff and Witness workers: Thank-you for your support. We commit ourselves to a life of growing faith, to serve and lead on your behalf so that together God's healing and hope might flow through us to the world.

All: Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. (Psalm 115: 1)

Leader: Now to the one who at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. AMEN. (Ephesians 3: 20, 21)

Commissioning of the Gathered Body

This morning we have celebrated our arrival at the lakeshore, we have experienced the awe that our God inspires, and now, dear people of God, we experience God's calling back out onto the waters. We cannot stay here at the shoreline, we are all being sent out into waters both known and unknown, to share our wild hope with those in our churches and communities. And so symbolize this, I now invite you to take the last page of your program and tear it off.

We, O people, are all going to make boats of wild hope. And while we know that it really is wild hoping to think that everyone might be able to fold a paper boat, with the help of the Spirit and our expert boat builders, I think everyone should end up with something that looks almost like a boat.

I am going to walk you through the folds, and if you get lost, don't worry, at the end I'll provide you with an alternative. So, rip off your last page, preserving as much of that top corner as possible, and here's hoping!

(See folding instructions, in separate file.)

I invite you now to rise and life up your boat, real or imagined and metaphorical, in your hands, as we ask for a blessing on them.

God, we lift up our hopes and dreams to you, knowing that the waters might be stormy ahead, but trusting that you are there in the boat with us, and having faith that you can calm the storm. Help us to hope deeply, to love strongly, and to work tirelessly for your kingdom. Bless these boats, and the hopes of the people who hold them. May we do your good work, to your glory. Amen.

Song

SS #124 *My soul cries out*

Benediction and closing of the Assembly

People of God, it has been good to be together.

I now declare this biennial assembly closed, looking forward to meeting in Saskatchewan in 2016.

Beloved children of the Spirit, we have been blessed.

Though we are sent, we do not go alone.

Go now, and leave filled with wild hope.

Bon Voyage!