



Introduction

From July 4-9, 2005 people from across Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina to worship and work together at the first joint assembly of these two national churches.

The theme for this assembly is **Can't Keep Quiet**, based on the stories in Acts 4 and especially on Acts 4:20. These worship resources are based on that theme and draw on the worship that has been planned for Charlotte 2005. We invite you to use this material in one of the following ways:

- As a worship resource on July 10, 2005, the Sunday immediately following the assembly in Charlotte.
- As a worship resource when your congregation's delegates report back to you about their experience at the assembly.
- At another time when the theme and material are appropriate.

Our prayer is that these worship resources will help our church to speak boldly about the wonderful things we have seen and heard God do for us.

Theme Scripture – Acts 4
Theme Verse – Acts 4:20

We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard. (NLT)

Assembly Sunday Worship Resources

Mennonite Church Canada

June 2005 *Equipping*

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 89:1-8, 52)

Leader: I will sing of God's great love forever. God's faithfulness endures through all generations.

Congregation: There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

L: Your love stands firm forever. You established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

C: There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

L: You made a covenant with your chosen people. You promised us your power for all generations, forever.

C: There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

L: Everyone in the sky above and the world below praises you, God. No one compares with you.

C: There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

L: Is there anyone in the sky above who is like God? Is there anyone in the world below who is like God? You are more awesome than anyone else. You are mighty and faithful, and we praise you. There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

C: There is no one like you, God. Praise God forever!

Confession

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us your power to transform the world. We are called to tell everyone what we have seen and heard you do for us. While we marvel at this great privilege, we also regret our failures.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy on us.

L: If through false pride or selfish independence we have failed to claim your power

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

L: If through superiority or lack of love we have failed to speak of what we have seen and heard

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

L: If we have seen suffering around us, and have failed to bring your good news

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

L: If we have seen joy around us, and have failed to recognize your good news

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

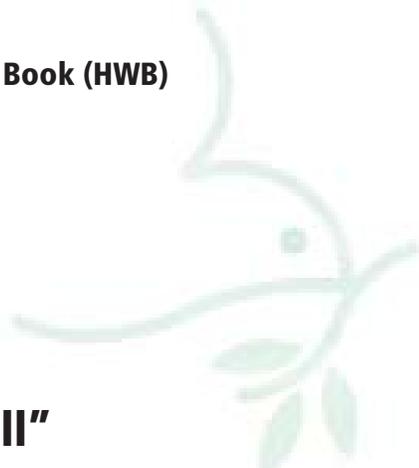
L: If in place of your power we have claimed our own theology, tradition, or prejudice

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

Words of assurance: Jesus' power, love and grace are here for us in abundance. We are forgiven people. This is what God has done for us. This is what frees us and empowers us to tell others what we have seen and heard. Thank you, God, for your grace and power.

Song Suggestions – all songs from Hymnal: A Worship Book (HWB)

HWB 26	Holy Spirit, come with power
HWB 29	Like the murmur of the dove's song
HWB 129	Fire of God, undying flame
HWB 135	God, whose purpose is to kindle
HWB 347	Through our fragmentary prayers
HWB 353	Lord, listen to your children praying
HWB 418	Move in our midst
HWB 530	What wondrous love is this



Ministry to Children – “Show and Tell”

In Acts 3: 1-10, Peter and John show the power of Jesus when they heal a lame man. This man then tells of the power of Jesus when he begins walking and leaping and praising God. Use this show and tell theme to invite children to consider what excites them about Jesus and what they can show and tell others about Jesus. You may wish to adapt Janet Penner's "Show and Tell" story for this purpose. Follow the link below to find this story on the Mennonite Church Canada web site. www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/sermons&worship/childrens/2005/jan16.htm

Sermon Ideas

Jesus makes ordinary people extraordinary (Acts 4:1-14)

Peter and John were unschooled, ordinary men. But they had been with Jesus. Jesus transformed their lives, and enabled them to transform the lives of others through the signs and wonders that they worked in Jesus' name. Share and celebrate the stories of transformation in your congregation. How has the power of Christ transformed the lives of individual members or your life as a congregation? What is your congregation doing to transform the world through the power of Christ?

Sometimes we try to contain the power of Christ (Acts 4:13-21)

The religious leaders who gathered to decide a punishment for Peter and John could not deny that they had worked a miracle – the man who had been healed was standing right there with them! They were threatened by the extraordinary power these two ordinary men were able to call upon, and they wanted to contain it. At times, the church and its members have been guilty of failing to recognize or trying to control the Holy Spirit. We need to confess our fears and insecurity, and rediscover God's invitation to live as Peter and John did – freely and boldly in the assurance and hope of Christ.

We must speak the word of God boldly (Acts 4:23-31)

Like Peter and John, we have been transformed by Christ. We carry Christ's power not for our own sake, but to transform the world. We have a responsibility to speak the word of God boldly. When we pray, as Peter and John did, we must expect God to anoint our church and its people with the Spirit of boldness.

Benediction (based on Acts 4:29-30)

Lord, stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. Fill us with the Holy Spirit. Enable us and send us out to speak your word with great boldness.