

Assembly Mennonite Church
Worship for Cluster Groups
August 23, 2020

**“Becoming a people of God:
God will show up for us in the wilderness”**



Gathering

Call to Worship

Come, rejoice, for we have been called!
The God who created us, who poured us full of love,
Who blessed, us, and called us by name,
Is inviting us on a journey to become a people of God
Let us worship together
Thanks be to God!

Be Still and Know

Peace Light – *Where did we see peacemaking this week?*

Grant us courage to build peace.

Grant us love to share our light.

Grant us hope that peace can keep shining.

Grant us strength to be kind to everyone. Amen.

Offering

Great and loving God: You have given us Your first and Your best.
We wish to follow in Your way, and we know that these gifts are one
way to start. Deepen our love. Grow in us grace and generosity so that
these gifts become more of our first and more of our best.
Make us also good stewards of the rest we have kept for ourselves.
Receive these gifts and use them to speed the coming of Your Reign.
Amen.

Hearing the Word

Looking Inward

First Reading – Sarah & Hagar (Genesis 16)

Second Reading – *Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great*, by Bob Shea

Action of Response

Third Reading – “The other Woman,” by Debbie Blue
(*The Christian Century*, Nov 24, 2014)

Responding to the Word

Looking Outward

Confession

*God of Abraham and Sara, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac,
God of Jacob and Esau, Of Joseph and all his brothers--
You know each of us
as closely as you knew each person in the stories we are telling.
You know that, like them,
we often think that we know best
we do hurtful things because we are jealous
we try to trick people for our benefit
we make choices that hurt other people
and we don’t use our power and privilege to help others.
When we think of times when we have acted
like the characters in these stories we feel squirmy,
we feel embarrassed, we feel guilty, we are sorry.
God, wrap us up in your blanket of forgiveness
and guide us to walk in your way. Amen.*

Reflecting - How does what we have heard inform how we think about
what it means to be God’s people now?

Sharing Joys & Concerns

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sending

Go Now in Peace

Extinguishing the Peace Light

*The light that was in one place at one time
is now in all places at all times.*

Benediction

*We have met in the presence of God,
Sustained by an old, old promise
Now, as you go from this place,
You are invited, like Abraham and Sarah
To walk in the way of love and light.
Go in peace.*