



Orrville Mennonite Church

1305 W. Market St. Orrville Ohio 44667

www.orrvillemenno.net

Worship Order for February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent

Welcome

Singing	<i>In the Morning When I Rise</i>	SJ 45
	<i>As Rain from the Clouds</i>	SJ 40

The lamps will be lit during the opening songs.

Lighting these lamps, we remember:

- Our sisters, brothers, friends, partners.
- Our laments.
- Our thanksgivings.
- The hope we have together in Christ.

Responsive Reading Psalm 119:17-18, 25-26, 33-40

Leader: Be good to your servant so I can go on living and keeping your word.

All: *Open my eyes so I can examine the wonders of your Instruction!*

Leader: My life is stuck in the dirt.

All: *Now make me live again according to your promise!*

Leader: I confessed my ways and you answered me.

All: *Now teach me your statutes!*

Offering Side: Lord, teach me what your statutes are about, and I will guard every part of them.

Piano Side: *Help me understand so I can guard your Instruction and keep it with all my heart.*

Leader: Lead me on the trail of your commandments

All: *Because that is what I want.*

Offering Side: Turn my heart to your laws, not to greedy gain.

Piano Side: *Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Make me live by your way. →*

Leader: Confirm your promise to your servant—the promise that is for all those who honor you. Remove the insults that I dread

All: *Because your rules are good.*

Leader: Look how I desire your precepts!

All: *Make me live by your righteousness.*

Singing	<i>O God in Heaven</i>	SJ 53
	<i>Longing for Light</i>	SJ 54

Offering Prayer

All are invited to come forward with gifts and offerings as we sing.

Regular Offering

My Coins Count (water projects around the world)

Dollar Project (Austin and Griselda Zuercher)

Offering Song	<i>O Breathe On Me, O Breath of God</i>	SJ 46
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Scripture 1 Corinthians 14.29-40

29 In the case of prophets, let two or three speak and have the rest evaluate what is said. 30 And if some revelation comes to someone else who is sitting down, the first one should be quiet. 31 You can all prophesy one at a time so that everyone can learn and be encouraged. 32 The spirits of prophets are under the control of the prophets. 33 God isn't a God of disorder but of peace. Like in all the churches of God's people, 34 the women should be quiet during the meeting. They are not allowed to talk. Instead, they need to get under control, just as the Law says. 35 If they want to learn something, they should ask their husbands at home. It is disgraceful for a woman to talk during the meeting.

36 Did the word of God originate with you? Has it come only to you? 37 If anyone thinks that they are prophets or "spiritual people," then let them recognize that what I'm writing to you is the Lord's command. 38 If someone doesn't recognize this, they aren't recognized. 39 So then, brothers and sisters, use your ambition to try to get the gift of prophecy, but don't → prevent speaking in tongues. 40 Everything should be done with dignity and in proper order.

Sermon *How We Hold the Bible*

Song Congregation Picks

Love Step Prayer (standing if able)

Lord, open my eyes to see when you introduce me to someone. Help me to meet them with love where they are and to be met in love where I am. Help us to walk together, learn from each other, and share your love with others. Help us to see that as we do these things together, we are growing closer to Christ.

Benediction

**Sharing (prayer requests) and Caring
Announcements**

Usher, Josiah Bixler
PA Operator, Dan Jantzi
Song Leader, Bill Seymour
Reader, Marilyn Kamp
Sharing and Prayer, Jeanne Jantzi

Greeters Today, Joyce and Larry Gerber, Wilma Eash
Next Sunday, Liz Snyder
Worship Nursery, Judy King
Next Sunday, Sky Lofty
Sunday School Nursery, Jan and Rollie Kauffman
Next Sunday, tbd
Sunday Morning Trustee, Stan Kamp

Announcements

We express our sincere sympathies to Sharon Stutzman and Maggie Hartzler and all the family in the passing of Emma Stutzman on February 13th. We rejoice with Emma's wholeness in the Lord, and we sit in mourning with her family. A contribution will be made to the I.W. Royer Scholarship Fund in Emma's memory.

We express our sincere sympathies to Jan and Rollie Kauffman in the passing of Jan's brother, Jon Clemmer. Jon passed away on

February 6th. A contribution will be made to the I.W. Royer Scholarship Fund in Jon's memory.

The devotions for February 19-23 will be print only, so Bill can focus on the refreshment of the Pastors/Leaders Conference.

Monday Meals. This past Monday, February 12, we served 162 meals. This Monday, Martins Mennonite will serve their ghoulish (pasta, red sauce, and beef), with green beans, a roll, and dessert.

February/March Dollar Project. The \$Project for the month of February and the first two Sundays of March will support Austin and Griselda Zuercher in God's ministries in Honduras. This is the second year of our commitment to this couple in ministry there. We are committed to \$500, and anything given above that amount will also go to them for their financial support.

Monthly Men's Breakfast is this Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 am here at the church.

Prayer Time. Church Growth – The elders invite you to a time of prayer, specifically for our church to grow.

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20-21. As we come together, in faith, we will discover how nothing is impossible for our Lord. **Prayer times will be 8:45am every other Sunday.** We will meet in the room under the balcony... If you are unable to attend in person, perhaps you can commit to spending time in prayer asking our Lord to open our doors for others to walk through so that they will know the love of our Lord and experience our Love Step Prayer in action. The next prayer time is next **Sunday, February 25th.**

An invitation! Please consider parking on the side of the church and entering through the front door of the church if you are willing and able. It's another way to make the front of our building more open and inviting to our community.

Coffee time! Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be available upstairs in the church beginning at 9:00 am. Please consider coming earlier than 9:30 so you have some time to sit and enjoy a cup before the service begins at 9:30. There will be a place for coats in the overflow in addition to the row of hooks near the elevator and the coat rack near the library.

Offering Report for Sunday, February 11, 2024

Ministry Spending Plan: \$4,215.00

Weekly Amount Needed for MSP: \$3,555.00

Dollar Project (Austin and Griselda Zuercher): \$171.00

Dollar Project (Severe Weather Shelter): \$200.00

Funeral meal donations: 95.00

Rejoice renewal: \$35.54

Schedule At-A-Glance for February 18 – 25, 2024

Sunday, February 18

Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Worship Service **9:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Sunday School, **10:45 am**

Sunday through Thursday, February 18-22

Pastor Bill will be at AMBS for a Pastors and Leaders Conference

Monday, February 19

Monday Meals, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 21

Men's Breakfast, 7:30 am

Axis Youth Group, 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 25

Prayer Time, **8:45 am**

Coffee Time, **9:00 am**

Worship Service **9:30 am**

Bill Seymour preaching

Sunday School, **10:45 am**

Looking Ahead

March 1 & 2 55th Ohio Annual Conference Assembly
at Sharon Mennonite Church

March 8 & 9 Ohio MCC Comforter Bash
at Fairlawn Mennonite Church

April 3 Spring Congregational Meeting, 7 pm

We wish a very Happy Birthday to Jen Bixler (2/20), Joshua Cooper (2/20), Louise Bowers (2/24) and Dawn Campbell (2/24)!! And a very Happy Anniversary to Larry and Joyce Gerber (2/23)!!

Orrville Mennonite Church

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 12 noon

Orrville Mennonite Church Website

www.orrvillemenno.net

Ohio Conference of MC USA Website

www.ohiomennoniteconference.org

Staff

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Ministers: Each member of the congregation

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How We Hold the Bible:

1. We believe in the authority of the Word of God. We have access to the Word of God in the Bible (written Word of God), in Jesus (Living Word of God), and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit (God's presence in us - Jeremiah 31.31, John 14.19, 26).
 - a. Therefore, for us, the Bible – the written Word of God - is authoritative, grounding, necessary, and useful for teaching and correction, but it is not sufficient. We read the Bible through the life and lens of Jesus and The Holy Spirit helps us both individually and in community.
 - b. While we believe that the Bible is exactly what God wants us to have, we are not literalists. We recognize that interpretation is inevitable and careful interpretation is necessary.
2. Interpreting the Bible (written Word):
 - a. We recognize that true understanding doesn't come without faith and obedience to the Lord.
 - b. We identify and admit our own culture and biases, knowing they will flavor how we read the biblical text even though we try to avoid this.
 - c. We let Scripture first interpret itself, through the lens of Jesus' life, teaching, crucifixion, and resurrection.
Matthew 5:17, Romans 8:3-4, 10:4, Galatians 3:23-25, Ephesians 2:15, Galatians 5:1-26, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 14:1-14
 - d. We listen to the wisdom of the generations of Christians who have come before us.
 - i. The way the earliest Christian leaders handled Scripture and the realities of life is a guiding example to us.
Acts 6.1-7, Acts 11, and Acts 15.1-35
(the latter known as the Jerusalem Council)
 - e. We listen to each other.

- f. We ask and trust the Holy Spirit to guide all efforts to understand Scripture and how it applies in our community life.

3. As we apply biblical truths, we consider what is happening in the world around us and hold open the possibility, that we, as a community of Jesus-followers in 2024-ish, can make different ethical (application) decisions than those that are recorded in the New Testament. We do so carefully, with prayer and testing, listening for the Holy Spirit. Our goal is faithfulness that reflects God's love and mercy to the world around us.
John 8:31-32, John 14:21, James 2,
1 Corinthians 14:29-33, Acts 17:11, Ephesians 4:11,
Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:9-10, John 14:19-26

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you think of the description of the Word of God and the Bible in statement number one?
2. How does this reflect the way Pastor Bill has teaches the Bible?
3. Does it reflect the way you see the Bible? How or how not?
4. What do you think of the description of interpreting the Bible in statement number two?
5. How does this reflect the way Pastor Bill has teaches the Bible?
6. Does it reflect the way you see the Bible? How or how not?
7. What do you think of the description of applying biblical truths in statement number three?
8. Think about the church's posture toward women in ministry, slavery, divorce. How have they changed over your lifetime? Is something like what is described here in number three? How so?