



Love

Wildwood Mennonite Church // August 30, 2020
Worship Leader: Rick F // Music Leader: Brenda M
Sermon: Erna Kim Hackett via YouTube

Welcome to Wildwood...

...or rather, thanks for welcoming us into wherever you are in this at-home worship format.

This is not where we thought we'd be this summer! We are grateful for the familiar patterns and relationships that we have been able to resume, yet we are still grieving the loss of those that have changed and we are still feeling our way through the murkiness of whatever it is that is emerging.

As people of faith, we trust that God is present in all of those spaces: in the familiar, in the grieving, in the unknown. And we are grateful that you have joined us in this place, a reminder that we never walk alone. Welcome.

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to our continuing new reality- the zoom Sunday worship service! Wherever you find yourself this morning, you are a part of our faith community. Our theme today is about Love, as found in Ps139; the love of God to us as shown by our very existence. We trust God is present here with us even when things may remain unsettled in our lives. May we find the peace of God as we worship together this morning.

Music For Meditation // [Knitting Phoebe's Sweater](#)

Call to Worship // [Loving Call to Worship](#)

Our Call to Worship is from John 13:34-35, the words of Jesus:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."*

Let's pray:

Loving God,

we come to worship today because we love you,
and we want to love you more.

We come to worship needing love in our lives:

love for family, friends, strangers, enemies.

In this hour of worship,

touch our hearts,

fill our hearts,
open our hearts
to your love which passes all understanding. Amen

(Carol Penner, Leading in Worship)

Peace Candle

As we light the peace candle today, I am aware as always , of the strange , not always nice world we live in. Some of us can and do live very insulated lives, others-not so much!

Many among us suffer in various ways; perhaps from racism, or mental health issues, or lack of necessary resources. Or many other things. We live in a world of pandemic, of hurricanes, of hate towards certain peoples. Sometimes I wonder how things keep moving on!

But in this world we also experience Gods love and see others in the light of that love.

[Song of Peace Confessional Prayer](#)

Lord, we come in prayer to you burdened with our unhappy business:
all the deeds done under the sun that we would rather not remember,
the sound of sin in our world.

The explosions caused by bombs made in our own factories.

The cries of the hungry that are not fed in our own communities.

Our own hurtful words hurled at those we love.

The echoing silence of creatures who we have driven to extinction.

Hearer of all, you know too clearly the sorrows of our world!

Forgive us our sins, and help us right the wrongs we've done.

Give us words of repentance to share with those we've wronged,
ringing courage to stand up for the voiceless creatures of the world
and a resounding love for the lowest and the least.

Most of all, tune our ears to the voice of Jesus,
so that always and everywhere we might hear
his song of peace for every creature under the sun.

(Carol Penner)

Offering Prayer

We are aware of the various ways we can continue sharing our financial gifts to Wildwood. I'd encourage you not to forget our church's expenses continue even though we do not meet there regularly. I also acknowledge that there are many ways to give of ourselves besides money!

Prayer

We know we have more than our fair share of the world's resources Lord. Too many in this world lack basic needs like food , clothing and shelter. Thank you for the opportunity to share of ourselves and our resources. Fill us with a love for others and a desire to seek their well-being. May we be agents of your love and peace wherever we happen to be. Amen



Children's Story // [Click here for video storytime with Katharine!](#)

Today's story is [I Am Love: A Book of Compassion](#) written by Susan Verde with art by Peter H Reynolds.

Scripture // Psalm 139 // *The Message* translation

*GOD, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I'm an open book to you;
even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get back;
I'm never out of your sight.
You know everything I'm going to say
before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you're there,
then up ahead and you're there, too—
your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful—
I can't take it all in!*

*Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?
to be out of your sight?
If I climb to the sky, you're there!
If I go underground, you're there!
If I flew on morning's wings
to the far western horizon,
You'd find me in a minute—
you're already there waiting!
Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!
At night I'm immersed in the light!"
It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;
night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.*

*Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;*

*You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;
all the stages of my life were spread out before you,
The days of my life all prepared
before I'd even lived one day.*

*Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful!
God, I'll never comprehend them!
I couldn't even begin to count them—
any more than I could count the sand of the sea.
Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!
And please, God, do away with wickedness for good!
And you murderers—out of here!—
all the men and women who belittle you, God,
infatuated with cheap god-imitations.
See how I hate those who hate you, GOD,
see how I loathe all this godless arrogance;
I hate it with pure, unadulterated hatred.
Your enemies are my enemies!*

*Investigate my life, O God,
find out everything about me;
Cross-examine and test me,
get a clear picture of what I'm about;
See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—
then guide me on the road to eternal life.*

Sermon // "Love" // Erna Kim Hackett via YouTube

Our "guest speaker" via video this week is Erna Kim Hackett, until recently a pastor at The Way Christian Center in Berkeley, California. Joe and some others learned to know Erna in 2018 at a symposium where she presented some of her theological work with the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies. You can connect with more from Erna at her latest project, liberatedtogether.com, where she is supporting Women of Color as leaders in their communities. This morning we're going to listen in on a sermon that Erna preached at The Way in September 2019.

[\(Click here for the full video sermon](#) on youtube)

Unfortunately we do not have a written transcript of the sermon this week.

Song of Response // [The Love of God](#) // Sing the Journey #44

Sharing Time // ["Hey Wildwood..." online sharing](#)

Not hearing from one another in person through the Sharing Time is a significant loss for many of us. It's not the same, but one way to express your grief, anxiety, prayer requests and gratitude is through the "Hey Wildwood" link above. If you're able, join us for our Sunday Morning Zoom gatherings, or check your email for the sharing items from last Sunday. Or maybe now would be a good time to pause your reading to call someone from church or elsewhere that you haven't heard from this week.

Congregational Prayer

Thank you Lord that we are able to bring our joys and sorrows to you. Thank you that, while you may not protect us from every evil in this world, we know you will sustain us through whatever we are experiencing.

Speak to each one of us in whatever way we need to hear you, and may your spirit animate our lives to make us more Christ-like. May we have the ability to show love and compassion to others and to accept others' love and care for us, (even when it may feel like interfering !) We know we need patience and to show kindness. Open our eyes to the needs around us that we may be able to help in some way. Open our eyes to the possibilities . We want to make a difference!

Thank you for life, amen

Song // [Heart With Loving Heart United](#) // HWB #420 // Quarantine Virtual Hymn Sing

Benediction // [Delightful benediction](#)

My brothers and sisters,
this service has come to an end.
Go into your week, serving your Saviour with love,
delighting in the life God has given you.
God be with you till we meet again.

(Carol Penner)

