

First Mennonite Church

November 23, 2008

Welcome!

The purpose of **F**irst **M**ennonite **C**hurch is to:

FOLLOW JESUS

MATURE IN FAITH

CARRY THE GOOD NEWS

Sunday School, Worship, and all our church activities
equip and strengthen us to fulfill that purpose.

**We invite members, friends, and visitors to
join us on the journey!**

9:15-9:40 – Snacks & conversation in Fellowship Hall

9:40-10:20 – *Sunday School*

PreK-5 th Grade	Room 30
Junior High	Room 11
High School	Room 13
Mosaic	Room 22
Gather 'Round	Fellowship Hall

10:30 – *Worship for Thanksgiving*

[A nursery is available in Room 10 downstairs for your use.]

Prelude

Merlin Friesen

Invitation to Worship (based on Psalm 100)

L: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing, shout, dance, and worship with exuberant faith!

P: We are the people of God.

L: The Holy One is God, the Holy One made us
and we are like sheep in God's sheepfold.

P: We are the people of God.

L: Enter this sacred place with thanksgiving,
ready to give thanks and to offer gratitude to God.

P: We are God's people.

L: For the Holy One is good, and steadfast love and
faithfulness will be God's nature forever.

P: We are God's people.

Prayer

*Hymn #94 "Come, ye thankful people"

Prayer of Confession

(based on the words by Chief Seattle, 1855)

L: Creator God, we confess that we do not always remember
you.

P: We forget that all we have and are comes from you.

L: We forget that the earth is our mother—we are made from
the earth.

**P: Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the children of the
earth. We are a part of the earth, and the earth is part of
us.**

L: We forget that the rivers are our brothers.

P: We forget that the perfumed flowers are our sisters.

L: We forget that the air is precious, for all of us share the
same breath.

P: The wind gives our children the spirit of life.

L: We forget that the earth does not belong to us; we belong to
the earth.

**P: We forget that all things are connected, like the blood
that unites one family.**

L: We forget that you are the same God whose compassion is equal for all.

P: We forget that we did not weave the web of life; that we are merely a strand in it.

L: Forgive us, O Creator, and help us to remember that whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves.

P: Forgive us, and accept our thanks for your gift of life.

Assurance of Pardon (unison)

The good news is that God loves and forgives us, and forever invites us to return to the ways of wholeness. We can be new people. We can live with respect for the earth and all its creatures.

Hymn #89 "For the beauty of the earth"

Special Music – Doug Casey & James Bush

Message: *Psalm 33: Singing a New Song*

Words: bulletin insert

Tune: #166

Offering – Mennonite Central Committee

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayer

*Hymn #86 "Now thank we all our God"

*Blessing

*Postlude

*(*Please stand if comfortable.)*

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Sunday, November 23, 2008