

First Mennonite Church

March 14, 2021

Lent 4 Deep in the wilderness: Deeper healing

Welcome and announcements Elizabeth Kelly

Prelude *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, arr. Sara Glick  
LuAnn Stuckey

Call to Worship

One: The wilderness is without and within. It too is part of God's path, though we fear wild, barren places, as did the people of old.

**Many: When the people became impatient, asking, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" God answered by bringing healing.**

One: In our barren places, God calls us to wholeness, even when we cannot see beyond the danger, isolation, and need.

**Many: We forget that God is already at work in these difficult, painful places.**

One: Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Chosen One be lifted up, that whoever believes may have eternal life.

**Many: For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

**All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper healing.**

VT 309 *Fill Us with Your Feast*  
Elaine Suderman

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher

VT 678 *Kyrie Eleison* (sing twice)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.**

One: We confess how the wilderness has revealed our need, uncovering our impatience, lifting up our pain. We confess how the wilderness has revealed your truth. We are created for good works. We can turn and live.

*(Silence)*

Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

**Many: Calling us to deep healing. We come to you, God.**

Conversation with Friends Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Brandon Rhodes

Scripture Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-21

Message *Desert, Dessert, or Something Deeper?*

Mark Suderman

HWB 334 *Christ is the World's True Light*

Response Ritual – Silent Reflection

Dedication Prayer

Offertory *Oh, Fill Us, Lord, with Dauntless Love*, A.K. Organ

LuAnn Stuckey

HWB 285/VT 364 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Benediction

*HWB-Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ-Sing the Journey; STS-Sing the Story; VT-Voices Together*

*Parts of our service were pre-recorded. Participants are following safe-distancing practices.*

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.*

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office closed due to coronavirus, staff  
working from home

#### Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – WFH Monday-Thursday, off Friday; 419-551-1079; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Pastor Jeff Boehr – WFH Tuesday & Friday; 419-236-9150; [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, Zooming M-F, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, WFH 419-230-5368; [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, WFH M-F, 9-4, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

Video editor: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Chris Moser

Camera: Glen Buller

Chancel: Anita Lehman

*First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.*



*Deep in the wilderness:*

*Deeper  
Healing*