

**First Mennonite Church**

**May 2, 2021**

**Eastertide**

Welcome and announcements Victoria Woods-Yee

Prelude

*Unity* (J.D. Martin)/*You are My All in All* (Dennis Jernigan)

Piano arrangement by Lucas Harnish

Invocation

Call to Worship (based on I John 4:7-21)

One: My Beloved friends, let us continue to love each other as love comes from God.

Many: Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences relationships with God.

One: The person who refuses to love does not know the first thing about God, because God *is* love.

Many: If anyone boasts, "I love God," and continues hating their brother or sister, they are a liar.

One: If they will not love the person who they can see, how can they love the God who they cannot see?

All: The command we have from God is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You have to love both.

VT 749

*Jesus Christ Is Love Divine*  
Harnish family

Community Prayer

Natilee Grover

Conversation with Friends

Bruce Steingass

Scripture

I John 4:7-21

Message

*Love fearlessly*

Laurel Neufeld Weaver

VT 161

*I Sought the Lord*

Dedication Prayer

Offertory

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Lucas Harnish

VT 638

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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:** Melissa Friesen

**Camera:** Glen Buller

*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.*

