

**BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH
HENDERSON, NEBRASKA
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
Third Sunday of Lent**

God's people are now in the land God promised them. God has delivered the Israelites and when they entered the land with Joshua, they promised full obedience to Him. They couldn't keep this promise; they were so easily pulled into the religious pluralism of the day. But God keeps coming back to them. When they cry for mercy, God raises a new judge. And for a time, the Israelites obey. Yet even the judges become increasingly flawed and sinful – not quite the heroes our Sunday school stories sometimes make them out to be. In Judges we see a messy people and a merciful God.

We, too, are messy people. The more we confess our messiness and our brokenness the more God's transformational mercy can shape us into the people God means for us to be. The true hero of the book – and of each of our stories – is God!

Prelude Laura Steingard, Organist
"Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted" Weber
"Give Me Jesus" Hayes
"Ah, Holy Jesus" Burkhardt
"Lamb of God Most Holy" Cherwien

"Create in me a Clean Heart, O God" Carl F. Mueller Chancel Choir
Directed by Rod Drews
Accompanied by Laura Steingard

Welcome & Call to Worship Pastor Gene Thieszen
Leader: Awe-inspiring God, we gather together to praise you for your tender compassion and care of needy people.
People: Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your prayers.
Leader: Listening God, we gather to revere and honor your supportive concern for people who cry to you for help.
People: Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your praise.
Leader: People of every nation are called to gather together to worship God, in thankfulness for God's loving mercies.

**People: Come all who seek the Lord God, offer your worship.
Amen.**

* "We Gather Together" HWB 17
(Children are invited to come forward during stanza 3.)

Children's Focus Tara Maltzberger

* "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" HWB 582

Congregational Prayer Pastor Gene Thieszen

Time of Reflective Silence
† Where do self-reliance and the gods of our times – security, achievement, success – derail you from trusting in God?
† Where have you seen or experienced God's strength displayed in weakness in your own life or elsewhere?

"Ah, Holy Jesus" Craig Courtney Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading: Judges 7:1-21; 8:22-27 (CEB) Pastor Gene
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Message "The Dangers of Success: Gideon" Pastor Seth

* "Prince of Peace, Control My Will" HWB 534

Announcements Pastor Gene Thieszen

Offering to God: Central Plains Mennonite Conference
Offertory: "Christ, the Life of All the Living" Cherwien Laura Steingard
(Children may bring "My Coins Count" offerings, as well as collect from the congregation and place them in the copper bowl at the front of the church.)

* Benediction Pastor Seth Miller

* "Go in the Grace of the Lord" James Barnard Chancel Choir

**If you are able, please stand.*

All are invited to participate in the Christian education hour and to stop by the Coffee Spot in the Fellowship Hall.



Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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- When you are unable to attend worship, please join us by radio at KOOL 103.5 FM or by livestream at www.bethesdamc.org. Click the WATCH LIVE tab to view live services or click LIVESTREAM ARCHIVE to view previous services.
- Hearing Impaired Worshipers: If you need hearing assistance, feel free to sit in the front center seating to take advantage of our Hearing-Loop system. Williams units are also available in the rear of the sanctuary for your use.
- When you desire pastoral care outside of office hours, please call:
 - Pastor Seth Miller: 717-824-5998 (cell) or email seth.miller@bethesdamc.org
 - Pastor Gene Thieszen: 580-660-5796 (cell) or email pastor.gene95@gmail.com
 - Pastor Andrea: 402-710-3195 (cell) or email andrea@mainstaycomm.net
- In addition to assistance from Bethesda pastors and deacons, domestic abuse support services are available to victims. Call (toll-free) 1-877-388-4673, 24 hours/day.



Lenten Series
The Book of Judges