

**BETHESDA MENNONITE CHURCH
HENDERSON, NEBRASKA
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
Second 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!

You are invited to sing along with Powerhouse band as they provide worship music this morning.

Prelude Marilyn Kroeker, Pianist
"Everlasting God" PH 14
"I Shall Not Want"
"Lord, I Need You"

"O Come to the Altar" Powerhouse
Directed by Kara Janzen
Accompanied by Jay & Marilyn Kroeker, Lynn Hall

Welcome & Call to Worship Pastor Seth Miller
Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.
People: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.
Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.
People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

* "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" HWB 37
(Children are invited to come forward during stanza 4.)

Children's Focus Pastor Andrea Wall

* "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" HWB 328

Congregational Prayer Pastor Gene Thieszen

Time of Reflective Silence

- † How have you seen the Judges cycle in your life? In the systems of government, society, or church?
- † Which gods of our age – wealth, security, comfort, achievement, health – are you tempted to rely on?
- † How does the reality of your sin and God's grace prompt you to praise and thank God today?

"Mighty to Save" PH 32 Powerhouse

Scripture Reading: Judges 4 Pastor Seth Miller
Leader: This is the Word of God, for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Message "Things Are Not What They Seem" Pastor Andrea

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

Announcements Pastor Seth Miller

Offering to God: Local Church Pastor Seth Miller
Offertory Marilyn Kroeker
(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 Andrea Wall

**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.

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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Website: www.bethesdamc.org

- 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