

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

May 12, 2019

Gareth Brandt - How shall we address God?

Worship Leader:
Accompanist:

Curtis Funk
Ruth Enns

Music Worship:
Usher:

Angela Ruthven
Diane Ehling

Last Sunday Steve Anonby challenged us to think of the Sabbath as a discipline to be embraced, not legalistically, but as a way to respect God's command that we periodically rest. The intentional "waste" of a day discourages us from the gluttonous exploitation of our God-given time. Making every effort to rest each week heals our bodies and minds, awakens our creativity, and helps us reflect, ponder and gain perspective. Like John Cage's composition of 4 minutes and 33 seconds of silence, Steve tested our discomfort with 50 seconds of silence, which felt like an eternity! [KH]

The message can be heard in your favorite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/sabbath-as-discipline/>

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

May 19 Jon Nofziger/Char Siemens
May 26 Church Retreat at Camp Luther
June 2 Hephzibah Chand
June 9 Membership Sunday

Greetings and encouragement from Columbia

The Last Shall Be First: The Revolutionary Teaching of Jesus
Pentecost

Retreat at Camp Luther Register now for the annual church retreat at Camp Luther. As we "Piece it Together", we ask that people bring their artistic talents (stain glass, knitting, poetry, etc.) to the retreat this year so that we can "peace" it all together for a display gallery. For those of us who would like to learn new skills, the retreat team would be tapping shoulders for individuals to share & teach their talents with everyone else. There will be sewing, stained glass, and more to come! If you would like to volunteer your artistic talents, please let me, Andre, or Diane know. Register on-line at <https://forms.gle/8FqbVzKN366j56mC6> or call the church office at 604-228-8911 Friday May 24th to Sunday May 26th. Cost \$75, assistance available.

Summer coffee signup

For those who delight in our "ministry of the table" after the Sunday service, the signup sheet for coffee hour is on the bulletin board at the back of the chapel. Please provide only coffee and tea - baked goods not necessary.

Wider Church

MCC - Run for Water You are invited to join MCC and Run for Water in partnership with the people in Gozamin, Ethiopia. Since 2008, MCC has been partnering with MSCFSO in areas of large-scale watershed rehabilitation, conservation agriculture and providing safe, clean and nearby water sources. The current water and sanitation project that is in need of funds is working in six kebeles (neighborhoods) in Gozamin woreda, Amhara region. See <https://donate.mcccanada.ca> for more information or to donate.

Vancouver Cantata Singers You are invited to a Nordic program at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre (6540 Thomas St, Burnaby) on Saturday May 25th at 7:30 pm featuring works by Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Mia Makaroff, Gisli Magnason, Per Nørgår. Enjoy a pre-show talk with Alan Matheson before the show. Tickets \$10-35 at <http://vancouvercantatasingers.com/concerts/>

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Worship—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); Recording Secretary—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);
Finance—Doug Medley (604-328-2980); Congregational Co-ordinator—Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

Our fellowship gives thanks for the gift of meeting on the unceded lands of the
Musqueam, Tsleil-Watuth and Squamish peoples

Regent College Hearing Voices: Human and Divine is the title of this week's free public lecture by John Swinton at Regent College as he reflects on the misapprehended phenomenon of hearing voices, specifically for Christians who are living with psychosis and those who live with them. Monday May 13th at 7:30 pm in the Chapel at Regent College. Return Wednesday May 15th at 7:30 pm for Peter Harrison's lecture on The Shifting Territories of Science and Religion in a talk that presents the concepts of "religion and "science" as modern inventions that often fail to capture the essence of the activities as they are conducted in practice. All lectures free and open to all.

MC Canada Gathering 2019 Register for Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford by Monday, April 20, for the early bird rate. The conference dates are Friday, June 28 to Monday, July 1. Registration is available for individual days also. PGIMF has a budget line available to reimburse your registration fee (but not your meals or T shirts!). Please let Veronica and Doug know that you plan to attend. www.ignitegathering2019.ca

Pastor Tom Cheung Friends and supporters have created a GoFundMe page for the family of pastor Tom Cheung, who died in a fiery crash at the Peace Arch border crossing May 2. Cheung had been lead pastor at Port Moody Pacific Grace MB Church. The GoFundMe page says it hopes to raise \$100,000 and was already over \$70,000 by Wednesday May 8th. You can contribute at <https://www.gofundme.com/tomcheung>

Vancouver School of Theology invites you to the Revitalizing the Church Workshop with Stanley Hauerwas presenting his thoughts on how to provide pastoral care without undermining the gospel. Event takes place Tuesday May 14th from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at Chapel of the Epiphany (6030 Chancellor Blvd, UBC). Registration is \$25, including lunch at <https://vst.edu/form-page/revitalizing-the-church-workshop>

Exodus 3:1-15

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and

the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹²He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you." ' ¹⁵God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations. [NRSV]

Isaiah 46:3-4; 49:15-16

³ Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been borne by me from your birth,
carried from the womb;
⁴ even to your old age I am he,
even when you turn grey I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save.

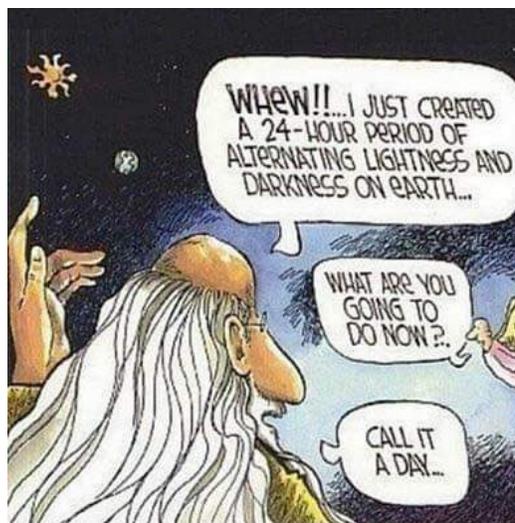
[...]

¹⁵ Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me. [NRSV]

Romans 8:14-16

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [NRSV]



GOD OUR MOTHER

Allison Woodard

To be a Mother is to suffer;
To travail in the dark,
Stretched and torn,
Exposed in half-naked humiliation,
Subjected to indignities
For the sake of new life.

To be a Mother is to say,
"This is my body, broken for you,"
And, in the next instant, in response to the
created's primal hunger,
"This is my body, take and eat."

To be a Mother is to self-empty,
To neither slumber nor sleep,
so attuned You are to cries in the night—
Offering the comfort of Yourself,
And assurances of "I'm here."

To be a Mother is to weep
Over the fightings and exclusions and wounds
Your children inflict on one another;
To long for reconciliation and brotherly love
and — when all is said and done —
To gather all parties, the offender and the offended,
Into the folds of your embrace
And to whisper in their ears
That they are Beloved.

To be a Mother is to be vulnerable —
To be misunderstood,
Railed against,
Blamed
For the heartaches of the bewildered children
Who don't know where to cast
the angst they feel
over their own existence,
In this perplexing universe.

To be a Mother is to hoist onto your hips those on
whose
your image is imprinted,
bearing the burden of their weight,
rejoicing in their returned affection,
delighting in their wonder,
bleeding in the presence of their pain.

To be a Mother is to be accused of sentimentality one
moment,
And injustice the next.
To be the Receiver of endless demands,
Absorber of perpetual complaints,
Reckoned of bottomless needs.

To be a Mother is to be an artist,
A keeper of memories past,
Weaver of stories untold,
Visionary of lives looming ahead.

To be a Mother is to be the first voice listened to,
And the first disregarded;
To be a mender of broken creations,
And Comforter of the distraught children
Whose hands wrought them.

To be a Mother is to be a Touchstone
And the Source,
Bestower of names,
Influencer of identities,
Life-giver,
Life shaper,
Empath,
Healer,
and Original Love.