

SEEKING GOD'S WAYS
FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE



LENT 5

Bloomington Mennonite Church
Sunday, April 3, 2022

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Seeking God's Ways

From Scarcity to Abundance

Focus Statement: As we seek God's way, we move from the fear that there is not enough to the freedom of living within God's abundance.

We Gather... to Pray and to Praise

Lighting the Christ Candle and Peace Lamp

Hymn of Gathering

VT #1

Summoned by the God Who Made Us

v 1,3,5

Call to Worship

Together we seek the way of God,

**who makes a way in the sea
and provides rivers in the desert.**

God fills our lives with love and beauty as sweet
fragrance fills the air.

We live within the abundance of God,

so let us laugh and shout for joy

as we worship God together.

Welcome and Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Hymns of Praise

(based on Philippians 3:14-21)

VT #323

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

MH #582

I'm pressing on the upward way

... to Hear God's Voice

Experiencing the Story

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Scripture John 12:1-8

Sermon

... to Live our Faith

Hymn of Response

VT #162 The Love of God

Congregational Prayers and Offering

Prayers of Intercession (**Lord, hear our prayer**)

Prayers of Thanksgiving (**Thanks be to God**)

... as We Go

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

VT #832 The Lord Lift You Up

Benediction (*based on VT #527*)

Postlude

Ushers

Lorna and Graham Aberdein

Pianist

Beatrice Wideman

Worship Leader

Ray Boehm

Chorister

Greg Cressman

Experiencing the Story

Serena Cressman

Sermon

Twila Lebold

Home Tech

Laura Fehrenbach

Sound Tech

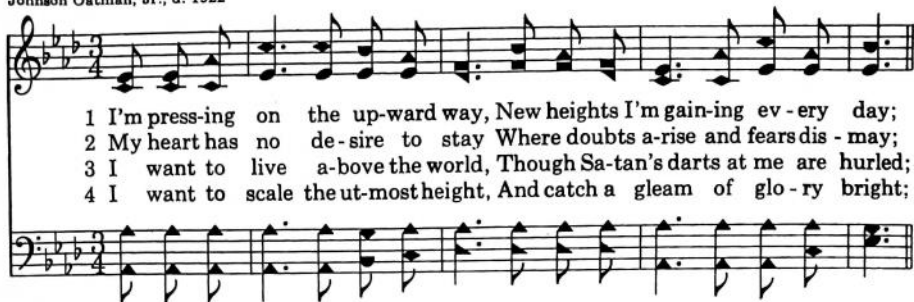
Jon Fretz

I'M PRESSING ON THE UPWARD WAY 582

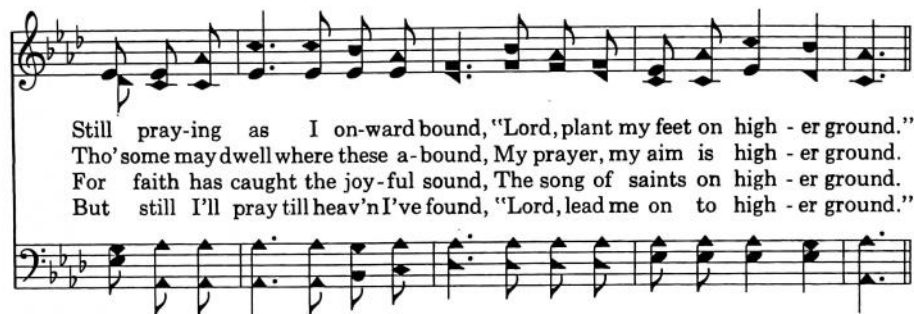
HIGHER GROUND L.M. with Refrain

Johnson Oatman, Jr., d. 1922

Charles H. Gabriel, 1892



1 I'm press-ing on the up-ward way, New heights I'm gain-ing ev-ery day;
2 My heart has no de-sire to stay Where doubts a-rise and fears dis-may;
3 I want to live a-bove the world, Though Sa-tan's darts at me are hurled;
4 I want to scale the ut-most height, And catch a gleam of glo-ry bright;

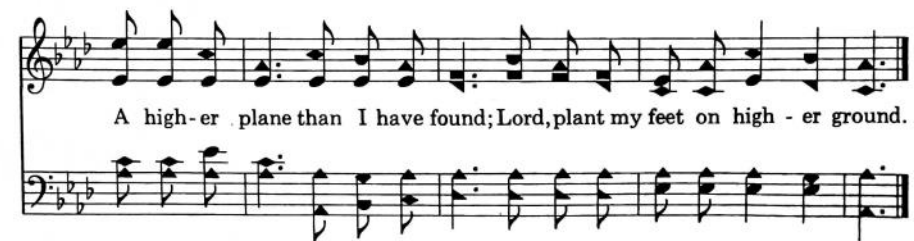


Still pray-ing as I on-ward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on high-er ground."
Tho'some may dwell where these a-bound, My prayer, my aim is high-er ground.
For faith has caught the joy-ful sound, The song of saints on high-er ground.
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me on to high-er ground."



REFRAIN

Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on heav-en's ta-ble-land,



A high-er plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on high-er ground.

BMC NEWS

Financial Report:

We celebrate how we at BMC, serve in God's Kingdom at home, across the street and around the world, through our faith and finances;

Offerings to:	Mar 31, 2022	\$152,928
Required for Budget at	Mar 31, 2022	\$154,802
Budget Deficit at	Mar 31/22 (year-end)	(\$ 1,874)*

*THANK YOU!!! With your generosity, we came very close to meeting our budget goal for our year ending March 31, 2022. We start the new year and the work of BMC on a positive note.

As usual, you can forward your offerings by e-transfer, by mail or sign up to do Automated Fund Transfers on the 15th of each month. Contact Ron Stevanus (treasurer) by email at treasurer@bmchurch.net or by phone at 519-886-6195 for more information. Thank you and stay safe as always.

We are in need of **Sunday School Teachers**. Please contact Twila if you are interested.

April 22, Earth Day — meet outside at the church to clean up and make bird feeders and nesting boxes. Details to come.

Campfires will be returning the second Saturday (3rd if it's raining) of the month starting **in May**.

Respond to the crisis in Ukraine MCC will be responding to the crisis in Ukraine through its local partners. Russian military forces have invaded the country with missiles striking major cities and casualties continuing to grow. Your prayers and donations will help partners scale up their work providing relief and trauma healing for vulnerable and displaced people. "Ukraine is experiencing major upheaval, but our partners have supplies ready to help vulnerable and displaced people," says Rebecca Hessenauer, MCC representative for Ukraine. Donate today at mcccanada.ca/ukraine.

BMC: Holy Week 2022

Seeking God's Ways



MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Thursday, April 14th at 7pm, we will meet over zoom. On this occasion when we commemorate the evening that Jesus washed his Jewish disciples' feet, Zac will share with the congregation his PhD learnings about how to interpret passages in the bible, especially around Easter, that have historically been used to set Jesus as odds with Judaism.



GOOD FRIDAY

On Friday, April 15th, we will meet in person and online at 9:45am for a Good Friday service. This service will walk us through Jesus' last moments before his death on the cross and ask us to further reflection on the Lent theme of "Seeking God's Ways." No SS/Worship Response.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

On Sunday, April 17th at 6:15am, you are welcome to come to an outdoor Easter Sunrise service that will include hymns, scripture, and prayer by the fire as we await the sunrise together.



EASTER SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 17th, we will meet in person and online at 9:45am for an Easter Celebration of Jesus' resurrection that will include a communion service. For those attending in person, bring your own elements. No SS/Worship Response. Following the service, we hope (weather permitting) to have an outdoor gathering with refreshments and possibly a light lunch (watch for further details).



BEYOND OURSELVES

- **Join the MCC Team!** To learn more about current postings and to apply, go to mcco.ca/serve
- **CommonWord Webinar: 100 Years of Mennonite Central Committee.** Join Alain Epp Weaver, Esther Epp-Tiessen, and César Flores for an online conversation on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 PM CDT. Hear about MCC's 100-year history of service and reconciliation, including the complicated ways Christian service has been intertwined with colonialism, racism, and regimes of power. Visit commonword.ca/go/2314 to register.
- **Volunteers needed:** Monday, April 25, 1-3 pm, Bingemans Conference Centre. The NHMRS team is looking for 10 volunteers to help with setup for the promotion dinner (no heavy lifting involved) on April 25 from 1 to 3 pm at Bingemans Conference Centre. Please contact John Reimer at johnreimer@nhmrs.com or 519-498-3620 if you can spare a couple of hours to help.
- **New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale Promotion Dinner April 25 at 6:30 pm,** Bingemans Conference Centre More than just a delicious meal, the NHMRS Promo Dinner is a chance to connect with community and support MCC! Enjoy a delicious buffet-style dinner, view a display of historic feature quilts and get an update from MCC staff. Tickets are \$25 each (children 10 and under are free) and must be purchased in advance by ordering online at nhmrs.square.site or call the MCC office: 519-745-8458 (press 3)
- **MCEC Annual Church Gathering April 29 & 30, 2022. Courageous Imagination: Living into the Journey based on Luke 13:18-21** - Join the MCEC family of faith for an in person/hybrid Annual Church Gathering as we celebrate at Redeemer University in Ancaster, ON. Register at: <https://mcec.ca/cell/event/register/id/10492>
- **Ndoozigbidoon Nibi - I am connecting to the water; Wednesday, May 4 at 7 pm, Online** Join water walker Mary Anne Caibaosai and water walker volunteer Shirley Lynn Martin as they talk about their connections with the water and one another. This webinar is part of a series of educational opportunities that MCC and our partners will be hosting to discuss the spiritual and cultural importance of water and the necessity of access to clean, safe water. To register, go to mcco.ca/events.

•**Let's reconnect at the Shalom Spring Brunch!** You are invited to the Shalom Counselling Services Spring Brunch on **Saturday, May 7th, 2022 at 9:30 am**. The theme of the Brunch will be **re-connection**, with stories and reflections by Shalom's counsellors. Join us in person at Steinmann Mennonite Church, or virtually with a delivered brunch. For more information and to register for the Brunch visit shalomcounselling.org/brunch or call Shalom at (519) 886-9690.

•**Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place, Conrad Grebel University College, May 12-15, 2022.** The program schedule is now available, and pre-registration is open for this gathering offering stories and analyses of encounters and relationships between Indigenous peoples and Mennonite settlers from point of contact through to the present. Visit the conference website for more information and to pre-register: uwaterloo.ca/indigenous-mennonite-encounters

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MINISTRY TEAM:

Pastor: Zac Klassen at churchpastor@bmchurch.net ; 519-404-8833
Secretary: Claudia Thum: bmchurch@bmchurch.net
Congregational Chair: Aaron Stevanus
Elders: Barb Burkard, Laurel Fretz, Paul Fretz
Treasurer: Ron Stevanus treasurer@bmchurch.net