

## Winter Worship Series – Anabaptism at 500: Services of Renewal

For January and February, SJMC will join Anabaptist Mennonite congregations across North America in using worship resources prepared for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anabaptism. On January 21, 1525, a small group of Christians secretly gathered in Zurich for a worship service in which they renounced their baptisms as infants and experienced voluntary baptism as adults as they baptized each other. This began a whole movement of the radical wing of the Reformation. On this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we pause to reflect on both the history, and the current realities and relevance of the Anabaptism movement. Our series will be shaped and guided by a wonderful worship guide prepared for this anniversary by Menno Media. You can download the whole 'Anabaptism at 500 Tool Kit' at <https://anabaptismat500.com/anabaptism-at-500-tool-kit/>. The worship guide for this series can be found starting on page 20.

To start the series, our whole Perimeter Cluster is having a Celebration worship service on the theme 'Renewal Through Story and Song,' to be held at Breslau Mennonite Church on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am. That service will have lots of congregation singing, and then each congregation sharing about what it means to be an Anabaptist congregation today, along with a song to represent this.

The series continues with the 4 main services suggested in the worship guide (Renewal through story, through trust and yieldness, through repentance, and at the Lord's Table). For each of these Sundays, the worship leader/planner and the pastor preaching have access to lots of resources and ideas in the worship guide for their Sunday. There are Call to worships and Scripture suggestions as well as lots of music ideas. Each week includes a Children's Story that can be used. There are resources for the sermon. For the most part we will not use the Intergenerational time rituals, unless the planners are drawn to them.

Our Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service will include people joining SJMC through a Membership Sunday, and on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> we will share communion with each other. On Feb 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a panel of folks from SJMC reflect on what it means to be Anabaptist today at SJMC. Our Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM will pick up the theme of 'Renewal Through Gathering as the People of God.'

The key word used in this whole worship series is 'Renewal.' In looking back, our faith is also renewed again in fresh ways. Each Sunday focuses on some aspect of renewal. The guiding Scripture for the whole series is Jeremiah 17:5-8 – with the image of a tree planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water. (This was also the Scripture SJMC used for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being located in St Jacobs). A key feature of the series will be a series of live paintings each of the 4 main Sundays (Jan 19-Feb 9), where Kandace, throughout the worship service, will paint an image connected to the theme of the morning. These will pick up the images of the tree planted by the stream.

May this series provide renewal within our congregation as we become more and more rooted in our trust of God. May this bear good fruit.