

Focus Statement: *Empathy and Dignity:* Jesus's example and teaching calls disciples to empathy—seeking to understand rather than persuade. At the same time, his same example and teaching also calls disciples to action—considering power dynamics to institute justice in a full realization of the upside-down kingdom. Following in the footsteps of Jesus requires seeking both peace and justice that respect the dignity of all.

Encountering

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Prayer

Call to Worship

It is for community that we have come to this place,
O God.

**We long for connection with you
and with one another.**

It is by faith that we are willing to trust our neighbor.

**You never intended for us to travel
through life on our own.**

Help us to listen to you and to others.

**We thank you for your Holy Spirit
and Scriptures who teach us your ways.**

When we forget who we are, O God,
send us your messengers.

We are your children, your beloved creation.

**Our purpose is to praise you
and show others your love.**

Engaging

Songs of Praise

The love of God
We are people of God's peace
Let the children come

VT 162

VT797

Children's Time

Offering

All who are thirsty

VT 49

Scripture Reading

Mark 11:15-19;
Matthew 13:10-15;
James 1:19-25

Message

Hearers and Doers:
Empathy-Based Listening
and Dignity-Based Action

Empowering

Time of Reflection *At the Edges of Our Borders* Jan Richardson

Congregational Prayer

Song of Sending

Benediction

Send us into the world's turbulence as instruments of
Your peace, and send us as agents of Your justice,
that all might know the truth of Your ways.

Send us as artists who bear the joyful burden of Your
creativity,
that we might bring Your light into the darkness,
and Your hope among the despairing.

Worship Leader Teresa Sherrill
Music Leader Merle Hostetler
Scripture Readers Beth Grieser, Silas Immanuel
Children's Time Sharon Miller
Message Jes Stoltzfus Buller
Prayers of the People Naomi Yoder
Zoom Host Hannah Bachman
Tech Team Sam Woelk, Jeremiah Overman

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Blessing "At the Edges of Our Borders"
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Peaceful Practices:

Biblical Foundations for
Healthy Communication in Conflict

October 24, 2021
10:30 a.m. Worship
East Goshen Mennonite Church