

# Benton Mennonite Church

January 10 2021

**Worship leaders:** Patty Nofziger and Gloria Showalter  
**Preacher:** Brenda Meyer                      **Song leader:** Lyn Buschert  
**Children's focus:** Rich Meyer                      **Peace prayer:** Dee Swartz  
**Reader:** Leah Roth Miller

## Today

- 9am: Brenda will host a 25-minute Sunday school for children in grades 1-5. Families will receive a Zoom link.
- 9am: For young children, Rich will host a Zoom check-in. Families will receive a Zoom link.
- 9:30 am: Worship through Zoom. Follow the invitation found in the email. Contact Doug for assistance.

### *Order of worship*

Peace prayer

Call to worship and invocation

Opening song                      *O come, all ye faithful*

Children's focus

Song                                      *Sing a new world into being*

Scripture                              Mark 1:9-15, Romans 8:14-31, selected

Message                              *Relying on the Spirit*

Song of response                      *Breathe on me, breath of God*

Offering

Congregational sharing and prayer

Announcements

Closing song

Benediction

Breakout rooms

## Next Sunday

- We continue our series on our new identity statements, looking at "We prioritize relationship with God, in worship that fosters trust and gratitude by using language that stretches us to see God's image in all." The full statement is at <https://bentonchurch.org/about-us/>.
- Doug will preach on our relationship with God connected with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 and Hosea 11.
- Worship leader: Ruth Mischler                      Song Leader: Lyn Buschert

## Announcements

### *Here at Benton*

**A new congregational small group is forming** for young people who are queer and/or curious about their own experience of sexuality. The Pastoral Team is encouraging Gloria Showalter to expand her support for individual youth in the congregation by leading a monthly zoom gathering. Participation in the group will be confidential; Brenda will provide pastoral oversight. If you have questions contact the pastors. If you are interested in participating contact Gloria at 574-327-1018 or [gloriabshowalter@gmail.com](mailto:gloriabshowalter@gmail.com).

**It's time to update our contact list.** Please check the attached list and let Brenda know if you have updates or would like to be added to or removed from the list.

**Couples: the church is investing in your relationship!** All dating, engaged or married partners associated with the congregation will soon have access to a trusted on-line assessment to give you feedback on areas of strength and growth in your relationship. Watch for details.

### *From the pastor - Doug:*

This was a shocking epiphany on Wednesday, as we saw rioters storm the US capitol building in an attempt to overturn an election. This can no longer be called a peaceful transition of power. A lot of details will emerge as we learn more about the inept police response and how much was planned by whom. The current president incited the riot and how much he will be held to account is yet to be seen. Many leaders in the Republican Party have distanced themselves from him, including Indiana Senator Mike Braun who changed his mind and decided not to challenge the electoral votes.

My favorite Scripture for epiphany, in this season when the days are getting longer, is Isaiah 9:2: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Those who stormed the capitol building held more Trump flags than American flags, and there were even a few Confederate flags. This mayhem prevented us from noticing the light in the midst of this white supremacist darkness. A Jewish man and a black man won their Senate races in Georgia. We can hope this is the dying gasp of white supremacy, but that will only be the case if all of us continue to work against racism and white supremacy. God has created all humans and calls us to love all people.

The pastors are not keeping regular office hours. Feel free to call with pastoral care concerns, prayer requests, personal updates, and announcements. Steve Johns is in the office on Fridays.

**Estimated attendance** for January 3: 74

*Announcements can be sent to [office@bentonchurch.org](mailto:office@bentonchurch.org) or called into the office. All information is due by 7pm, Thursday.*



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**Pastors:**

**Brenda H Meyer**, x203 | [brenda@bentonchurch.org](mailto:brenda@bentonchurch.org)

**Douglas D Kaufman**, x202 | [doug@bentonchurch.org](mailto:doug@bentonchurch.org)

*Relying on the Spirit,  
we will love as Jesus loves,  
pursuing God's peace  
at the river and  
at the table.*

